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HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.



THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF

HERTFORDSHIRE

BEING THAT FOR THE YEAR

1936

BY

H. HYSLOP THOMSON

M.D., D.P.H.

County Medical Officer of Health.

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**To the Chairman and Members of
the Public Health and Housing Committee.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report on the Public Health of the County for the year 1936, being the thirty-eighth you have received.

The health of the County during 1936 has been uniformly good and there was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease, although diphtheria was rather persistent in one district, while measles was somewhat prevalent. At the end of the year the beginning of the influenza epidemic of 1937 made its appearance.

The statistics for the year 1936 show certain satisfactory features. There is a distinct rise in the birth-rate, and the maternal mortality and the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis have reached the lowest figure which has so far been attained. There is a fall in the death-rate from epidemic disease but no change in the death-rate from malignant disease. On the other hand there is a slight rise in the general death-rate and in the infant mortality due to causes discussed in the body of the Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. HYSLOP THOMSON,

County Medical Officer of Health.

HERTFORD.

June, 1937.

Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee.

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Goddard, S. J.	

Those marked * are members of the Sub-Committee as to County Medical Officer of Health's Reports

District Medical Officers of Health.

<i>Name and Address.</i>	<i>District.</i>
Cox, Dr. W. J., Public Health Department, Watford.	Borough of Watford.
Fraser, Dr. H., Westlands, Harpenden.	Harpenden Urban.
Gross, Dr. M., Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead.	Borough of Hemel Hempstead, Berkhampstead, and Tring Urban ; Berkhampstead and Hemel Hempstead Rural.
Grosvenor, Dr. A. A., Bowling Green, Stevenage.	Stevenage Urban.
Hardie, Dr. C. F., Wood Street, Barnet.	Barnet Urban and Rural.
Harvey, Dr. W., 25 King Street, Watford.	Bushey, Chorleywood, and Rick- mansworth Urban ; Watford Rural.
Macfadyen, Dr. N., 123 Norton Way, Letchworth.	Hitchin and Royston Urban ; Hitchin Rural.
McClymont, Dr. J., Clay Hill, Enfield.	Cheshunt Urban.
Paton, Dr. R. R. K., 36 St. Peter's Street, St. Albans.	City of St. Alban ; St. Albans Rural.
Rose, Dr. A. E., Council Offices, New Barnet.	East Barnet Urban.
Suggit, Dr. B., Hitchin Street, Baldock.	Baldock and Letchworth Urban.
Thomas, Dr. A. T., Council Offices, Hatfield.	Welwyn Garden City Urban ; Hatfield & Welwyn Rural.
Whitelaw, Dr. A. D., The Castle, Hertford.	Borough of Hertford ; Bishop's Stortford, Hoddesdon, Sawbridge- worth, and Ware Urban ; Braugh- ing, Hertford, and Ware Rural.

THE HEALTH OF THE COUNTY, 1936.

TABLE I.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

(For each District see Table 18.)

	URBAN.			RURAL.			COUNTY.		
	1936 <i>a</i>	1935. <i>b</i>	10 years † <i>c</i>	1936. <i>d</i>	1935. <i>e</i>	10 years † <i>f</i>	1936. <i>g</i>	1935. <i>h</i>	10 years † <i>i</i>
I. Population	339,300	326,390	246,245	120,850	115,310	111,265	460,150	441,700	366,132
II. Birth-rate ...	14·6	13·9	16·1	14·1	13·8	14·8	14·4	13·9	15·9
III. Death-rate	10·0	9·7	10·4	10·0	10·0	10·3	10·0	9·8	10·4
IV. Infant Mor- tality *	40	34	46	30	38	45	37	35	47
V. Epidemic Death-rate	·10	·14	—	·09	·14	—	·10	·14	—
VI. Phthisis Death-rate	·45	·44	·6	·33	·48	·5	·42	·45	·5
VII. Cancer Death-rate	1·4	1·5	1·4	1·4	1·3	1·3	1·4	1·4	1·3

† 1921-1930.

* Per 1,000 Births.

In the above table is given a summary of the vital statistics for the County during 1936. The estimated population for the year was 460,150, compared with 441,700 for last year. A study of the table shows that there is a slight increase in the general death-rate, namely 10.0, compared with 9.8 for the previous year. The birth-rate is higher, being 14.4 compared with 13.9 for the previous year. There is a slight increase in the infant mortality, which is 37 compared with 35 for 1935.

There is a further fall in the maternal mortality, which is 2.1 compared with 2.4 last year. This is the lowest maternal mortality which has so far been reached in the County. There is a further fall in the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis, namely 0.42 compared with 0.45 for 1935. This is the lowest death-rate from this disease which has so far been reached. The death-rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis is also slightly lower, namely 0.10 compared with 0.11 last year. There is a further fall in the epidemic death-rate, which is 0.10, compared with 0.14 for the previous year. The death-rate from malignant disease is 1.4, the same as last year.

TABLE 2.
POPULATION AND ACREAGE.

(For each District see Table 18.)

	Acreage (land and water).	POPULATION.			
		Census 1911.	Census 1921.	Census 1931.	Estimate 1936.
Urban Districts ...	70,048	194,263	229,059	280,945	339,300
Rural Districts ...	334,472	117,058	104,136	120,214	120,850
County ...	404,520	311,321	333,195	401,159	460,150
England & Wales ...	37,339,215	36,070,492	37,885,242	39,947,931	—

The 1931 census population for the County was 401,159, the population estimated for 1935 was 441,700, and the estimated population for 1936 was 460,150, which is an increase of 18,450, compared with 12,350 last year.

Several of the districts in the County have shown a considerable increase during recent years. This increase in the County population is due to immigration, chiefly from London and also from distressed areas. The result of this immigration is to transform districts which were partly urban and partly rural into more crowded urban districts. The possible effect of such transformation with its movements of population on the general standard of health in the County and upon the County statistics is being kept under observation.

TABLE 3.
BIRTH-RATE.

(For each District see Table 18. For number of births, legitimate and illegitimate, in each district, see Table 27.)

	Hertfordshire.						England and Wales.
	Urban.		Rural.		County.		
	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	
1911-20 .	18·0	3,971*	18·2	2,003*	18·1	5,974*	21·8
1921-30 .	16·1	3,939*	14·8	1,739*	15·9	5,678*	18·3
1935 .	13·9	4,497	13·8	1,667	13·9	6,164	14·7
1936 .	14·6	4,955	14·1	1,710	14·4	6,665	14·8

* = Average.

The birth-rate for 1936 shows a distinct increase, being 14.4 compared with 13.9 for 1935; the rate for the urban districts is 14.6 and for the rural 14.1, which is higher for both districts. The highest birth-rate in the urban districts was 20.8 (Welwyn

Garden City), which was also the highest last year, and the lowest 9.2 (Sawbridgeworth). In the rural districts the highest birth-rate was 18.1 (Berkhampstead), and the lowest 11.2 (Welwyn).

The increase in the birth-rate is, no doubt, partly due to improved economic conditions, but the chief explanation is that the people coming into the County contain a high percentage of young married persons.

In three urban districts, Chorleywood, Sawbridgeworth, and Tring, the death-rate exceeded the birth-rate.

TABLE 4.
DEATH-RATE.

	Hertfordshire.						England and Wales.
	Urban.		Rural.		County.		
	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	
1911-20 .	11·6	2,393*	11·6	1,221*	11·6	3,614*	14·3 .
1921-30 .	10·4	2,585*	10·3	1,145*	10·4	3,730*	11·8
1935 .	9·7	3,143	10·0	1,208	9·8	4,351	11·7
1936 .	10·0	3,424	10·0	1,215	10·0	4,639	12·1

* = Average.

The death-rate shows a slight increase for 1936, being 10.0 compared with 9.8 for the previous year. The death-rate was the same for both urban and rural districts. In the urban districts the highest death-rate was 13.3 (Baldock) and the lowest 7.6 (East Barnet). In the rural districts the highest death-rate was 12.7 (Braughing) and the lowest 7.5 (St. Albans).

The increase in the death-rate during 1936 is due chiefly to an increase in the number of deaths from heart disease, pneumonia, bronchitis, diabetes, and congenital debility and premature birth.

TABLE 5.
INFANT MORTALITY.

	Hertfordshire.						England. and Wales.
	Urban.		Rural.		County.		
	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
1911-20 .	67	259*	58	119*	64	378*	100
1921-30 .	46	192*	45	79*	47	271*	81
1935 .	34	155	38	64	35	219	57
1936 .	40	199	30	52	37	251	59

* = Average.

The infant mortality, which is the number of deaths under twelve months per 1,000 births, shows a slight increase from 35 to 37, the actual number of deaths being 251 compared with 219 for 1935.

The increase is restricted to the urban districts, the infant mortality in the rural districts being lower, namely 30 compared with 38 for 1935. This is somewhat surprising; one would expect a lower infant mortality in the urban districts in which facilities for hospital treatment exist and where Centres and Clinics are within much easier reach. The figure of 37 for the County compares favourably with that of 59 for England and Wales. The lowest infant mortality in the urban districts was 7 (Bushey) and the highest 86 (Berkhampstead). In the rural districts the lowest was 8 (Hemel Hempstead and Watford) and the highest 69 (Hertford). In Royston Urban District no deaths under one year occurred.

There has been a further decrease in the mortality amongst illegitimate infants, which was 41.5 compared with 53.0 for 1935. The mortality in urban districts was 38.2 and in rural districts 53.5.

There were 9 deaths from diarrhoea under the age of twelve months, the same as last year.

For the prevention of epidemic diarrhoea in infants and young children efforts must be continued in the following directions: (1) The encouragement of the breast-feeding of infants, (2) the provision of a clean milk supply, (3) the attaining of a satisfactory standard of domiciliary cleanliness, (4) the abolition of refuse and flies, and (5) the protection of all milk in the home from contamination by dust and flies. The main precaution is cleanliness in regard to food utensils, food, and milk.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF MOTHERS PER 1,000 BIRTHS.

The number of maternal deaths during the year was 14, compared with 15 last year and 22 in 1934. The maternal mortality was 2.1 compared with 2.4 last year and 3.6 in 1934. This is the lowest figure which so far has been reached. Of the 14 maternal deaths 3 were due to puerperal sepsis, compared with 5 last year, and 11 were due to other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition, compared with 10 last year. It is satisfactory to note that the deaths from puerperal sepsis are a decreasing figure and that out of 6,705 only 3 deaths from this cause occurred. The maternal mortality of 2.1 for the year compares favourably with 3.65, the figure for England and Wales.

The maternal deaths were equally divided between urban and rural districts, the distribution being in urban districts, sepsis 2, other causes 5; and in rural districts, sepsis 1, and other causes 6.

There were 17 cases of puerperal fever notified during the year, 16 from urban districts and 1 from rural districts. The largest number of cases notified from one district was 3 (Barnet, Hemel Hempstead, and Watford urban districts).

There were 71 notifications of puerperal pyrexia received during the year compared with 67 last year, 66 from urban districts and 5 from rural districts.

The following are the rates for maternal mortality for the County for each year to 1919: 2.1, 2.4, 3.5, 2.5, 2.3, 4.2, 2.9, 3.2, 3.2, 4.9, 2.2, 2.8, 4.2, 4.5, 3.8, 3.1, 3.4, 3.6, 2.4.

From these figures it will be observed that during the last two years the figure has been definitely lower. This must be attributed to the greater efforts which are being made to secure the early diagnosis of complications associated with pregnancy and to obtain immediate treatment. The question of further extending these facilities is the subject of a special report which is at present under consideration.

The scheme in the County for promoting the welfare of mothers includes special measures which aim at reducing maternal mortality and morbidity; these measures are described elsewhere, but special attention is drawn to the provision of the services of obstetric specialists and of arrangements for the hospital treatment of complicated cases.

TABLE 6.
CANCER OR MALIGNANT DISEASE.

(Including carcinoma and rodent ulcer. For each district see Table 18.)

	Hertfordshire.						England and Wales.
	Urban.		Rural.		County.		Rate.
	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	
1911-20 .	1.2	252*	1.2	128*	1.2	380*	1.2
1921-30 .	1.4	342*	1.3	151*	1.3	493*	1.2
1935 .	1.5	487	1.3	166	1.4	653	—
1936 .	1.4	488	1.4	179	1.4	667	—

* = Average.

The death-rate from malignant disease remains the same as last year, namely 1.4 for the County. There has been a decrease from 1.5 to 1.4 in the urban districts and an increase in the rural population. This is probably due to the influence

of the age factor: increased immigration of young persons to urban districts will tend to lower the death-rate from this cause.

Of the total number of 667 deaths, 488 were in urban districts and 179 in rural districts and 304 were males and 363 females. Compared with last year there has been a slight increase in the number of deaths in males and a slight decrease in the number in females.

Of the total number of deaths, 351, of which 174 were males and 177 females, were over the age of 65, giving a percentage of 52.6 over that age.

The number of cases admitted to County Institutions during the year was 247; of these, 34 were admitted after previous special treatment and 213 were admitted without any previous advice or treatment at another hospital. Of the latter number, 15 were referred to hospitals which provide radiation treatment. The returns received showed that the highest group of cases, namely 45, was that of sites not specified. The organs most frequently affected were breast and rectum, 30 respectively, followed by tongue and mouth 18, uterus 10, bladder 9.

The number of operations performed in Wellhouse Hospital for malignant disease was 12, classified as follows:—

- (1) Laparotomies and no measures possible, 4 cases.
- (2) Laparotomies and palliative measures, 5 cases.
- (3) Successful removals, 3 cases.

The majority of malignant cases requiring operation are referred to London Hospitals by their own medical men. The greater number of cases admitted to Public Assistance Institutions are inoperable or have been sent in under some other diagnosis.

The investigation of the history of patients suffering from malignant disease has not proved successful in so far as information of any definite value is concerned. The form which has been used for this purpose requests information chiefly in regard to history of symptoms, nature of treatment, subsequent history, and home conditions. The information given as to the symptoms and duration of the disease prior to admission is frequently vague and consequently of little value. Unless the development of malignant disease is associated with unusual hæmorrhage or definite pain, the patient has little recollection of any definite symptoms associated with its onset, although early anæmia and loss of weight in persons at or above middle life are characteristic and should always call for investigation. In the majority of cases the information received through the forms indicates that the case when admitted was inoperable or unsuitable for radiation treatment.

Perhaps the most useful investigation which could be carried out would be as to the type of individual most liable to develop

malignant disease. The 60+ age group is the one in which malignant disease shows its highest incidence, but even in this group, as can be seen in the wards of Public Assistance Institutions, there are many aged persons with all the degenerative changes of advanced senility in whom malignant disease does not develop, and in those in whom it does it usually progresses slowly. On the other hand, in persons in the young and middle aged groups, who appear to be in normal health, the disease develops and progresses somewhat rapidly. The aim of an investigation as to type of individual would be to ascertain whether there exists any common feature in those whose tissue cells take on malignant growth. There must be some common factor at present unknown.

TABLE 7.
TUBERCULOSIS.

CRUDE DEATH-RATES FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

(For each District see Table 18.)

	Hertfordshire.						England and Wales.
	Urban.		Rural.		County.		Rate.
	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	
1911-20 .	.8	169*	.7	79*	.7	248*	1.0
1921-30 .	.6	158*	.5	63*	.5	221*	.7
1935 .	.44	143	.48	58	.45	201	—
1936 .	.45	156	.33	41	.42	197	—

* = Average.

The death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis shows a further decrease, being 0.42 compared with 0.45 for 1935, the decrease applying only to rural districts. This is the lowest death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis which has so far been reached, the previous lowest being 0.45 in 1935. In the urban districts the highest death-rate was 1.08 (Ware) and the lowest 0.16 (Bushey). In the rural districts the highest death-rate was 0.95 (Berkhamsted) and the lowest 0.05 (St. Albans).

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 441 compared with 494 for the previous year. Of the total number 336 were pulmonary cases compared with 370 last year and 105, compared with 124 last year, were non-pulmonary cases. In the following tables particulars are given of the number of cases notified and of the number of deaths from tuberculosis in the various urban and rural districts in the County.

TABLE 8.

GIVING THE NOTIFICATION-RATE AND DEATH-RATE FROM
NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

District.	Popula- tion.	Number of Cases Notified.			Number of Deaths.			Attack Rate per 1,000.	Death- rate per 1,000.
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.		
<i>Urban.</i>									
Baldock	3,675	1	—	1	—	—	—	·27	—
Barnet	19,650	2	3	5	—	2	2	·25	·10
Berkhampstead	10,080	—	2	2	—	—	—	·19	—
Bishop's Stortford	10,580	1	3	4	—	2	2	·37	·18
Bushey	12,490	1	1	2	1	—	1	·16	·08
Cheshunt	16,090	3	4	7	—	3	3	·43	·18
Chorleywood	3,485	1	—	1	—	—	—	·28	—
East Barnet	28,280	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	·07
Harpenden	10,970	1	1	2	—	1	1	·18	·09
Hemel Hempstead	18,050	2	2	4	1	1	2	·22	·11
Hertford	13,030	2	—	2	1	—	1	·15	·07
Hitchin	16,100	3	—	3	1	—	1	·18	·06
Hoddesdon	11,670	2	4	6	2	4	6	·51	·51
Letchworth	15,350	5	3	8	2	—	2	·52	·13
Rickmansworth	15,300	—	1	1	2	1	3	·06	·19
Royston	3,810	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Albans	35,370	6	4	10	3	—	3	·28	·08
Sawbridgeworth	2,920	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stevenage	5,730	2	2	4	—	—	—	·69	—
Tring	4,440	1	1	2	—	1	1	·45	·22
Ware	7,400	—	1	1	—	—	—	·13	—
Watford	64,100	11	9	20	3	4	7	·31	·10
Welwyn Gdn. City	10,720	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	·09
Total Urban	339,300	44	41	85	17	21	38	·25	·11
<i>Rural.</i>									
Barnet	8,390	—	1	1	1	—	1	·11	·11
Berkhampstead	4,196	—	1	1	—	1	1	·23	·23
Braughing	8,938	1	1	2	3	—	3	·22	·33
Hatfield	14,640	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	·20
Hemel Hempstead	8,515	2	—	2	—	—	—	·23	—
Hertford	6,907	—	1	1	—	—	—	·14	—
Hitchin	18,900	2	4	6	—	—	—	·31	—
St. Albans	19,300	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	·15
Ware	9,541	1	2	3	—	—	—	·31	—
Watford	17,510	1	2	3	—	1	1	·17	·05
Welwyn	4,013	1	—	1	—	—	—	·24	—
Total Rural	120,850	8	12	20	8	4	12	·16	·09
Total Urban	339,300	44	41	85	17	21	38	·25	·11
Total Urban and Rural	460,150	52	53	105	25	25	50	·22	·10

TABLE 9.

GIVING PARTICULARS OF THE NOTIFICATION-RATE AND DEATH-RATE FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

District.	Popula- tion.	Number of Cases notified.			Number of Deaths.			Attack Rate per 1,000.	Death- rate per 1,000.
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.		
<i>Urban.</i>									
Baldock	3,675	3	—	3	2	—	2	.81	.54
Barnet	19,650	4	4	8	5	2	7	.40	.35
Berkhampstead	10,080	7	5	12	3	6	9	1.19	.89
Bishop's Stortford	10,580	4	8	12	3	1	4	1.13	.37
Bushey	12,490	3	2	5	2	—	2	.40	.16
Cheshunt	16,090	9	3	12	2	2	4	.74	.24
Chorleywood	3,485	1	—	1	1	—	1	.28	.28
East Barnet	28,280	11	9	20	4	2	6	.70	.21
Harpenden	10,970	4	2	6	5	2	7	.54	.64
Hemel Hempstead	18,050	7	9	16	6	6	12	.89	.66
Hertford	13,030	5	—	5	2	3	5	.38	.38
Hitchin	16,100	2	2	4	4	3	7	.24	.43
Hoddesdon	11,670	4	3	7	5	2	7	.59	.59
Letchworth	15,350	9	7	16	3	2	5	1.04	.32
Rickmansworth	15,300	8	3	11	1	2	3	.71	.19
Royston	3,810	1	1	2	1	—	1	.52	.26
St. Albans	35,370	25	12	37	13	12	25	1.04	.70
Sawbridgeworth	2,920	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	.68
Stevenage	5,730	1	3	4	1	—	1	.69	.17
Tring	4,440	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	.67
Ware	7,400	6	3	9	5	3	8	1.21	1.08
Watford	64,100	46	25	71	21	8	29	1.10	.45
Welwyn Garden City	10,720	2	3	5	2	4	6	.46	.55
Total Urban	339,300	162	104	266	93	63	156	.78	.45
<i>Rural.</i>									
Barnet	8,390	3	1	4	1	2	3	.47	.35
Berkhampstead	4,196	2	1	3	3	1	4	.71	.95
Braughing	8,938	6	2	8	3	1	4	.89	.44
Hatfield	14,640	6	7	13	3	2	5	.88	.34
Hemel Hempstead	8,515	2	2	4	2	3	5	.47	.59
Hertford	6,907	4	3	7	2	2	4	1.01	.58
Hitchin	18,900	3	1	4	4	2	6	.21	.31
St. Albans	19,300	7	6	13	1	—	1	.67	.05
Ware	9,541	3	1	4	—	1	1	.41	.10
Watford	17,510	6	4	10	3	4	7	.57	.39
Welwyn	4,013	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	.24
Total Rural	120,850	42	28	70	22	19	41	.57	.33
Total Urban	339,300	162	104	266	93	63	156	.78	.45
Total Urban and Rural	460,150	204	132	336	115	82	197	.73	.42

Of the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis 156 occurred in urban districts, compared with 143 last year, and 41 in rural districts compared with 58. Of the total deaths 115 were males compared with 113 last year and 82 were females compared with 88, so that the decrease has been in the case of females only.

A study of the age incidence of the disease shows that the highest number of deaths occurred in the male age group, 45-55, and the next highest number in the female age group, 15-25, and this latter peak has been a feature of recent years. Various explanations have been given for the arrest in the decline of the number of deaths in this female age group, but, as has been pointed out previously, restriction of diet, especially of its fatty constituents and altered industrial conditions, must play a prominent part. As regards the extremes of life, there were 19 deaths over the age of 65 and only 2 under the age of 15, one being under the age of 5.

Of the deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis 38 occurred in urban districts compared with 30 last year and 12 in rural districts, compared with 20, so that there has been an increase in the deaths in urban districts. In seven urban and five rural districts there have been no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death-rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis is 0.10 compared with 0.11 last year. In urban districts the highest death-rate from this disease was 0.51 (Hoddesdon) and in rural districts 0.33 (Braughing).

As regards the age incidence of deaths from non-pulmonary it differs markedly from that of pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the total deaths 25 occurred under the age of 15, of which 17 were under the age of 5.

Preventive Measures.—The preventive measures to be carried out with a view to the control of tuberculosis have constantly to be reviewed. The standard of housing and nutrition has undoubtedly improved during recent years. The nutrition of the young employed female and her conditions of employment still call for further consideration. The figures as regards the deaths from tuberculosis in the various age groups given above support the view that the primary infection with tubercle bacilli takes place in early life and that the pulmonary form of the disease which manifests itself later is due, in the majority of cases, to reactivity of the primary infection. Increased effort is therefore called for to secure the early diagnosis of open cases of the disease in the home and to protect the young from serious infection. The examination of children

who are in contact with open cases of the disease is carried out with a view to detect early cases of infection, but it is not always easy to get parents to consent to their children being examined. All parents are written to, requesting them to have their children examined, and the services of the nurses are employed to obtain the parents' consent. The possibility of infection through milk is also constantly under view. The standard of milk as regards the absence of tubercle bacilli has undoubtedly improved as a result of sustained effort to detect the disease in cattle. During the year 226 samples of milk, compared with 170 last year, were examined with the following results: 96 school milk samples, T.B. nil; 30 bulk samples, T.B. nil; 67 single cow samples, T.B. + in seven; 33 undefined but evidently suspected samples, T.B. + in four.

During the year 287 home conditions forms were forwarded by the Health Visitors, from which the following particulars have been obtained.

TABLE 10.
HOME CONDITIONS.

	Good.	Indifferent.	Bad.
Insured	80·0	18·8	1·2
Uninsured	79·1	16·9	4·0
Total	79·6	18·0	2·4

NUMBER OF PERSONS PER BEDROOM.

	Two or less.	Three.	Four.	Over Four.
Insured	89·2	9·8	1·0	—
Uninsured	87·1	12·9	—	—
Total	88·5	11·2	·3	—

The figures in the above table show that compared with last year the percentage of bad home conditions is lower and that of two or less persons per bedroom is higher.

Examination of Patients.—During the year 970 persons were examined, compared with 1,045 last year, with a view to diagnosis and, if necessary, treatment. The results found on examination were as follows: Pulmonary or hilum tuberculosis, 314; non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 72; combined pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 18; suspects, 84; not tuberculosis, 482. The figure of persons examined includes a number of contacts of which particulars of 157 have been received. Contacts were also examined by medical practitioners in the County, but there is no information available as to the actual number of these. Efforts are continually being made to increase the number of contacts examined, the chief difficulty to overcome being the absence of consent on the part of the parents.

In cases in which the diagnosis is doubtful patients are admitted to the County Sanatorium for a period of observation. During the year 36 cases were admitted to the Sanatorium for this purpose.

Treatment.—This comprises sanatorium treatment for pulmonary cases, hospital treatment for non-pulmonary cases, dispensary treatment for ambulant cases, and domiciliary treatment for patients who, owing to their condition, have to be treated in their homes. In addition, cases of tuberculosis of the skin are sent to the London Hospital for light treatment. During the year 389 patients were admitted to sanatoria and hospitals for observation and treatment. At the end of the year 183 patients were under treatment or observation in these institutions. In addition to these there were admitted to Public Assistance Institutions 109 patients, of whom 87 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis; 88 patients were discharged from such institutions during the year. At the end of the year there were 17 patients in Public Assistance institutions of whom 14 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Cases of cutaneous tuberculosis receive light treatment at London Hospitals; during the year 20 patients received such treatment, compared with 15 last year.

Dr. Sharpe, Medical Superintendent of the County Sanatorium, reports that during the year 302 patients were admitted and that in 301 patients a term of treatment or observation was completed. Of these 196 had improved, 39 had not improved, 39 had died, and in 27 the diagnosis was not confirmed.

The condition of the patients admitted to the Sanatorium during the year was as follows: Early stage, 25; intermediate stage, 152; advanced stage, 89; suspects, 36.

The results obtained during the year are shown as follows: Able to work or improved, 196; not improved, 31; worse, 8; diagnosis not confirmed, 27; died 39.

Of the cases admitted, in 185 the sputum was positive and in 117 the sputum was negative.

Thirty-six cases were admitted as suspects for observation of which 10 were found to have tuberculosis.

The daily average number of beds occupied during the year was 127.

Forty-four patients were transferred from the County Sanatorium to various institutions for the treatment of various complications or for other reasons. Of these 19 were sent to a London hospital for special operative treatment for tuberculosis, 8 to a Colony and 9 to Public Assistance Institutions.

In addition to the ordinary conservative regime the following figures give some particulars of the various forms of treatment employed:—Tuberculin: 59 patients received injections of tuberculin. Gold treatment: 24 patients were treated with sanocrysin or myocrysin; 54 patients were treated by artificial pneumothorax.

The number of X-Ray films taken at the Hertford County Hospital during the year was 547 and patients were screened there on 11 occasions. It is hoped that in the early part of 1937 a Portable X-Ray Apparatus will be installed at the Sanatorium.

The Laboratory has been in use during the whole of the year and 895 Sputum Examinations have been made. Blood Sedimentation rates are now taken as a routine when patients are admitted and before discharge, and also once during residence.

Lectures are given to the patients periodically, explaining the method of Sanatorium treatment, and advice is given to them as to carrying out the treatment as far as possible, after returning to their homes.

New Workshops.—An appreciable amount of work has been done in connection with the new workshops and it is hoped to finish them during 1937. A portable sound film apparatus has been in use during the winter months and nine films have been shown both to the bed and convalescent patients; it has been very much appreciated.

Thanks are due to the members of the Ladies' Committee and other kind friends for gifts and help during the year.

Nursing of Patients.—The following figures supplied to me by Miss Harrington give some indication of the work of the district nurses in the county in connection with the nursing of patients suffering from tuberculosis.

During the year, the district nurses have attended 157 cases, of which 85 were nursing cases and 72 observation cases. They have also visited 226 cases for the purpose of taking temperatures. In addition, 203 home conditions reports, 55 shelter

TABLE II.

RETURN SHOWING THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF TREATMENT OF PATIENTS AND OF OBSERVATION OF DOUBTFUL CASES DISCHARGED FROM RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1935.

Classification on admission to the Institution.	Condition at time of discharge.	Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution.												Total.
		Under 3 months			3-6 months			6-12 months			More than 12 months			
		M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	
		PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.												
Class T.B. minus.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	- 11 -	- 16 1	- 2 -	- 19 -	- 19 -	3 7 1	- 3 -	- 8 -	5 3 -	- - -	- - -	4 2 -	12 90 2
Class T.B. plus Group 1.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	- 12 2	- - -	- - -	- 2 1	- 6 -	- - -	- 1 -	- 1 -	- - -	- 23 3
Class T.B. plus Group 2.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	- 5 2	- 4 1	- - -	- 26 1	- 10 1	- - -	- 9 1	- 9 1	- - -	- 1 1	- 3 -	- - -	- 67 8
Class T.B. plus Group 3.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	- 2 6	- 4 2	- - -	- 12 1	- 11 -	- - -	- 6 2	- 3 6	- - -	- 1 3	- 2 -	- - -	- 41 20
Bones & Joints.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	1 - -	- - -	- 1 1	- - -	- - -	1 1 -	- - -	- 2 -	2 - -	- 1 -	2 - 1	7 - -	13 5 2
Abdominal.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	- 1 -	- - 1	- 1 -	- - -	1 1 -	1 - -	- - -	- - -	2 - -	- - -	- 1 -	- 1 -	4 5 1
Other Organs.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	- - -	- - -	- - -	- 1 1	- 1 -	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- 3 1
Peripheral Glands.	Quiescent . . . Not Quiescent . . Died in Institution	- - -	- 1 -	- 2 -	- - -	- 1 -	1 1 -	- - -	- - -	1 3 -	- - -	- - -	1 2 -	3 10 -
		PULMONARY.						NON-PULMONARY.						
		Under 4 weeks			Over 4 weeks			Under 4 weeks			Over 4 weeks			
Observation for purpose of diagnosis.	Tuberculous . . Non-tuberculous . Doubtful . .	8 12 1	4 6 1	- - -	1 5 -	- 3 -	- 1 -	- - -	1 - -	- 1 -	- - -	- 3 -	1 3 -	15 34 2

Particulars of patients who were under treatment in institutions for less than 28 days do not appear in this table.

reports, and 237 supplementary reports on patients' condition have been filled in and forwarded, making a total of 495 reports. The number of visits made by the District Nurses to the homes of tuberculous patients during the year was 5,759.

During the year the County Council Health Visitors have attended 14 cases. In addition, they have filled in 28 home condition reports, 2 shelter reports, and 18 supplementary reports on patients' condition, making a total of 48 reports. The number of visits made by the Health Visitors to the homes of tuberculous patients during the year was 474.

The total number of visits paid to the homes of patients by District Nurses and Health Visitors was 6,233.

TABLE 12.
GIVING PARTICULARS OF DISPENSARY WORK, 1936.

Dispensaries.	Number of Nurses' attendances at Dispensary.	Number of patients.	Discharged—no further treatment necessary.	Sanatorium or discharged for other reasons.	On books at end of year.	Number of patients' attendances at Dispensary.
DISTRICT NURSES :						
Berkhampstead	24	76	7	51	18	129
Bishop's Stortford	22	86	7	59	20	184
East Barnet	24	98	6	61	31	221
Hatfield	24	86	1	59	26	187
Hemel Hempstead	53	117	6	75	36	348
Hitchin	51	185	19	125	41	527
Hertford	49	219	15	144	60	508
St. Albans	64	266	31	130	105	616
Waltham Cross	50	105	11	62	32	248
COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH VISITORS :—						
Barnet	27	101	8	64	29	162
Letchworth	51	135	11	85	39	529
Watford { Children	24	85	7	23	55	198
{ Adults	48	231	26	128	77	749
Totals	511	1,790	155	1,063	569	4,606

Summary of New Work during the Year.—In the following table particulars are given of the work carried out during the year in connection with tuberculosis, including recommendations for treatment in the case of new patients.

Number of cases examined	970
Cases treated in sanatoria	335
Cases treated in hospitals	54
Cases treated at home	231
Cases treated at dispensaries	97
Cases under observation	182
Contacts examined	157

Cases recommended milk	29
Shelters issued	11
Specimens of sputum examined	2,172
Tubercle bacilli present	644

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The number of new patients from Hertfordshire attending clinics in London during 1936 was 332 compared with 341 for 1935 and 288 for 1934. Of this number 187 compared with 186 were cases of venereal disease, and 145 compared with 155 last year were found not to be suffering from this disease. The total attendances for the year were 8,828 compared with 9,206 for 1935. The number of in-patient days was 647 compared with 583 last year.

It will be observed from the above figures that the number of patients who presented themselves for treatment is lower than last year and that a decreased number of individuals who were not suffering from venereal disease presented themselves for examination. The actual number of cases of venereal disease attending the clinics is practically the same as last year.

The amount of work carried out during the year is shown in the following table:—

TABLE 13.
ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 1936.

Hospitals.	New Patients.					Total Atten- dances.	In- patient days.
	Syp.	S.C.	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total.		
Albert Dock	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Northern	4	1	23	7	35	2,781	—
Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street	—	—	—	23	23	158	8
Guy's	2	1	15	10	28	494	83
King's College	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan	—	—	1	—	1	12	—
Miller General	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Free	2	—	11	30	43	642	120
St. George's	—	—	7	7	14	173	—
St. John's, Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Mary's	1	—	9	7	17	414	—
St. Paul's	2	1	13	11	27	897	52
St. Thomas'	6	1	11	28	46	1,101	10
Seamen's	1	—	2	—	3	22	101
S. London for Women	—	—	—	1	1	4	—
University College	9	—	41	6	56	1,424	—
West London	—	—	3	2	5	61	18
Westminster	5	—	2	1	8	9	—
S. Army Mothers' Hospital	1	—	2	—	3	39	145
Children's Medical Home	—	—	2	—	2	—	54
Whitechapel Clinic	—	—	8	12	20	597	56
Total	33	4	150	145	332	8,828	647

The total number of pathological examinations made for private practitioners in the County during the year is 166.

The number of pathological examinations carried out for practitioners was 166, compared with 150 for the previous year, while the number of pathological examinations carried out for or at the centres in London was 2,541. Of these examinations, 7 were for spirochætes, 1,480 for gonococci, 499 for Wassermann reaction, and 555 for other reasons.

BLIND PERSONS.

The scheme provided by the County Council under "The Blind Persons' Act 1920", provides for (a) Children under school age; (b) employment; (c) home workers; (d) home teachers; (e) maintenance grants in homes; (f) maintenance grants in hostels; (g) assistance to unemployable or other destitute blind persons; (h) registration; (j) general social welfare; (k) miscellaneous.

Registration.—In carrying out the scheme of Registration, the Council have secured the help and co-operation of the Hertfordshire Society for the Blind and the County Nursing Association. The register of blind persons in the County which has been prepared contained:—

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
At 31st December, 1926	.		188	203	391
" " 1927	.		191	226	417
" " 1928	.		211	249	460
" " 1929	.		213	255	468
" " 1930	.		207	255	462
" " 1931	.		212	254	466
" " 1932	.		205	251	456
" " 1933	.		202	250	452
" " 1934	.		202	246	448
" " 1935	.		239	271	510
" " 1936	.		249	291	540

During 1936 there were added to the register 91 blind persons, compared with 39 last year, 41 males and 50 females. The number removed from the register during the year was 55, of which 21 were males and 34 were females; 127 cases are at present receiving grants from the County Council, 71 males and 56 females.

I am indebted to the Secretary of The Hertfordshire Society for the Blind for the following information regarding the work in connection with the blind during the year.

There are only three children under 5 years of age on the Register, and the age period 5 to 16 only contains seven names, of these two are mental defectives and the rest are in special schools for the blind. Six boys and girls become 16

this year, and the question of useful training is now under consideration in the case of five of these. The choice of a trade is very difficult as the chances of permanent employment for the Blind are so poor. Ten blind people are now in training under the County Higher Education Committee.

There are 20 cases of mental deficiency, 28 cases of extreme deafness, and one deaf and dumb case among the Registered Blind. Five people are in Homes for the Blind, and 40 are in Public Institutions.

A striking fact of the work for the Blind in the past year is the large increase in the Register; 91 new registrations have taken place and of these only 20 are of blind persons who have moved into the County from other districts. The increase can best be accounted for by the fact that the increased staff of Home Teachers make the work better known, and blind people have become more sensible of the benefits to them of Registration.

The Hertfordshire Society for the Blind continues to augment the grant from the County Council towards the administrative and Home Teaching side of the work in Hertfordshire by nearly half the total cost. Four new Recreational Centres, at St. Albans, Hitchin, Barnet, and Tring have been started and meet every month for social intercourse and entertainment. With the existing Centres at Watford and Ware there are now six places in the County catering regularly for the Social Welfare of the Blind.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The number of cases reported with a view to investigation as to whether they were mentally defective within the meaning of the Acts was 134, compared with 144 last year. Of this number, 93 were found to be mentally defective and 4 were epileptic; the remainder, after careful examination and testing as to their standard of intelligence, were not regarded as mentally defective within the meaning of the Acts.

Table 14 gives the results of the examination of the 134 cases referred for examination, with particulars as to the condition and grade of defect. Of the 134 cases reported, 76 were males and 58 were females, while 27 were above the age of 21, and 107 were below that age. Of these cases, 96 were from urban districts and 38 from rural districts.

TABLE 14.
PARTICULARS AS TO TYPE OF MENTAL DEFECT.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Under 21.	Over 21.	Under 21.	Over 21.	
Idiots	4	—	1	1	6
Imbeciles	14	4	10	1	29
Feebleminded	23	4	16	12	55
Epileptic and Feebleminded	2	—	1	—	3
Epileptic	2	—	2	—	4
Physically Defective	8	5	—	—	13
Dull and Backward	9	—	10	—	19
Doubtful	1	—	4	—	5
Totals	63	13	44	14	134

In the above table particulars are given of the type of defect in the cases examined, and of the group to which they belong. Of the 134 cases examined, 93 were returned as mentally defective, the largest group, namely 43, being males under the age of 21, and of this group 14 were imbeciles and 23 were feeble-minded. The number of females in this group was 28, of which 10 were imbeciles and 16 were feeble-minded. Of the total number examined, 41 were found not to be mentally defective within the meaning of the Acts, the largest number of these, namely 19, being returned as dull and backward.

TABLE 15.
PARTICULARS AS TO CIRCUMSTANCES AND PROCEDURE ADOPTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Sent to Certified Institution or placed under Guardianship (including cases reported in 1935)	27	25	52
Referred to Education Committee	34	25	59
Under proper care, no action desired by parents, able to work, or no action taken	4	9	13
On waiting list	8	12	20
Totals	73	71	144

Institution Accommodation.—During the year, 52 cases were sent to Cell Barnes or were placed under guardianship, as against 56 so dealt with in 1935. Admissions of children to Kingsmead School are not included in this figure. Of the 52 cases thus dealt with 27 were males and 25 females. One case

was placed under guardianship. The number of mental defectives in the certified accommodation at "Shrodells" at the end of the year was 12, including one defective on "licence".

At the end of the year 36 cases were in the certified accommodation at the Bishop's Stortford Institution, including 4 on leave on "licence" and 1 case admitted to "place of safety"; during the year 6 were discharged.

The increasing population in the County and the increasing demands for admission to Cell Barnes Colony emphasize the importance of the Colony as a residential institution for the supervision and training of employable mental defectives and for the care and retention of those of the lower grade type who for obvious reasons cannot be retained at home. In the Colony special attention is given to improving the general health and physical condition of the inmates and to training in various branches of work, while every effort is made to provide facilities for recreation and amusement to relieve the routine and monotony of institutional life.

Guardianship.—During the year, 1 additional case was placed under guardianship, as compared with 5 last year. At the present time there are 63 under guardianship in the County, of which 41 are Hertfordshire cases and 22 are out-County cases. In addition there are 8 County cases under the care of the Guardianship Society, Brighton.

Defectives placed under guardianship are visited twice yearly by your Medical Officer and more frequently by the Nurses. In addition the defective is visited and interviewed by "visitors" under the Act. Considerable care is exercised in the selection of guardians and due regard is paid to the home conditions. The aim of guardianship is to combine supervision with employment when the defective is employable. In the case of unemployable defectives the guardian, in a number of cases, is a relative, most frequently a sister. The standard of care and supervision is generally satisfactory, more so where the guardian is also a relative.

Statutory Supervision.—This continues to be carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Associations. The additional supervision which the visits of the nurse entails is undoubtedly of benefit to the interests of the defective. By this means the attention of the Authority under the Act is called to cases which require to be specially dealt with. Some parents take exception to the nurses' visits and where the supervision by friends and the home conditions is satisfactory the visits are discontinued or made at longer intervals.

The number of defectives to whom visits were paid by the nurses during 1936 was 347 compared with 314, and the number of visits paid to their homes was 2,187. Of the 347 defectives 187 were males and 160 were females, and of the 2,187 visits 1,157 were paid to males and 1,030 to females. During the year 244 forms giving particulars regarding the home conditions and circumstances of the defectives were forwarded to the County Medical Officer, compared with 202 last year. From these figures it will be seen that there has been an increase in the number of visits made during the year.

Training and Employment.—This is chiefly carried out in the County Institutions such as Cell Barnes and Kingsmead.

The question of the training and employment of mental defectives is a most important one as the mental defective who is able to do useful work under supervision is liable to get into some form of trouble if unemployed. The question is under consideration at the present time, more especially in regard to the employable defectives discharged from Kingsmead School at the age of 16.

The only practical solution of the problem is the provision of training centres in one or two of the larger urban districts in the County; such a centre if established must be in close touch with Cell Barnes and Kingsmead School and, indeed, with all institutions and departments which in any way deal with cases of mental deficiency. Such a centre would be established and administered under the Mental Deficiency Acts and might well be developed as an extern unit to Cell Barnes; this possibility should be carefully considered.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Since the last Report was submitted there have been further developments in connection with the Public Assistance Service in the County chiefly in regard to structural extensions and improvements in certain of the institutions which have as their aim extended and improved accommodation.

The arrangement for the pooling of beds and for the general use of special beds in some of the institutions has been continued during the year, and although so far it has not been taken advantage of to any great extent, there is evidence that its value is becoming more generally appreciated.

As regards equipment also, improvement has to be reported more especially in connection with operating theatres and the wards. It is inevitable that as time passes there must be a

demand for up-to-date or renewed equipment to replace that which is out-of-date or worn out. In addition to these structural and equipment developments special attention has been given to questions relating to administration and staff to which subsequent reference is made.

The chief structural and equipment improvements relating to medical requirements which have been commenced or completed during the year are briefly as follows :—

Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet.—Casual wards have been converted to provide suitable accommodation for 47 chronic or senile cases and the accommodation is now in use. “Fieldways,” in Wellhouse Lane, purchased and used as premises for clinics including ante-natal clinic. Provision of rubber flooring over the main and side corridors on the ground floor of the hospital. Provision of new and improved equipment including staff wash-hand basins in wards, electric sterilizers, water-heaters for sterilization of crockery, tubular ward screens, and additional ward lockers by direct labour. Work on new isolation unit and new maternity nurses’ home commenced.

Hempstead House, Hemel Hempstead.—The provision of rubber flooring on the first floor of the new Infirmary Block.

Chalkdell House, Hitchin.—Block previously used for the accommodation of children is being converted so as to provide suitable accommodation for 25 female patients of senile or chronic type.

Oster House, St. Albans.—Maternity ward with accommodation for 15 cases and children’s ward for 25 cases in full use. A scheme under consideration for a complete new system of soil drainage.

Western House, Ware.—Provision of a new mortuary.

Shrodells, Watford.—Provision of a new hospital lift ; new sterilizing equipment for operating theatre and new bed pan cleansers.

Consulting Staff.—The special consulting staff for all institutions in the County consists of five members, namely a consulting surgeon, a consulting physician, a consulting physician for mental diseases, a consulting ophthalmic surgeon and a consulting ear, nose, and throat surgeon, the two latter being appointed during the year. In addition to this special staff there are an additional consulting surgeon and a consulting orthopædic surgeon for Shrodells. The Medical Officers of the institutions are also authorized to call in the services of a consultant in skin diseases when necessary. It should also be

mentioned that the services of the two consulting obstetricians provided under the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme of the County Council are available for the maternity cases in Public Assistance institutions if and when required. The following is a summary of the visits of the members of the special staff to institutions during the year.

Dr. Segar : St. Albans, 6 consultations, 9 operations ; Bishop's Stortford, 2 consultations ; Ware, 1 consultation ; Hatfield, 1 consultation.

Dr. Blaxland Levick : Visits for consultations as follows : Bishop's Stortford, 8 ; Watford, 6 ; Hemel Hempstead, 3 ; Ware, 3 ; Barnet, Hitchin, and St. Albans, 2 ; and Hatfield, 1.

Dr. Kimber : Visits for consultations at least two to each institution, three to Hitchin, and four to Watford—a total of twenty visits were made and 45 patients were individually seen. On a number of occasions advice has been given by telephone when a visit was not called for.

Mr. Milner : Four visits were made, two to Watford and two to Barnet. Six patients were seen and two operations were performed, one for acute glaucoma at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.

In connection with reports received from members of the consulting services there are several points to which reference may be made. The routine visits have not yet quite reached their normal level but this it is expected will be attained during the present year. Dr. Segar states that increasing numbers of special cases are being transferred to Wellhouse Hospital at the request of the Medical Officers of some of the County Institutions. Dr. Blaxland Levick reports that several patients were seen by him at each visit and that he found the medical arrangements in each institution entirely satisfactory. Dr. Kimber refers to useful discussions with Medical Officers of institutions in regard to various points arising in connection with the treatment and disposal of patients and to the appreciation shown by members of the Medical Staff at Wellhouse, Shrodells and Haymeads for the advice given in cases presenting considerable difficulty. Mr. Milner states that it is a great advantage to a Public Assistance Institution to have the services of a consulting ophthalmic surgeon more especially as many of the patients are elderly people to whom a journey to an ophthalmic hospital would present serious difficulties. The case of acute glaucoma mentioned above emphasizes the value of the services of a consulting ophthalmic surgeon.

Medical Staff.—The only change to be reported in the

personnel of the medical staff is the appointment of Dr. J. E. Elam as Visiting Anæsthetist to Wellhouse Hospital. The appointment of a House Surgeon at Oster House, St. Albans, was approved and has been made at the time of writing this report.

The duties of the medical staff vary in different institutions according to the number and type of patients admitted and to the responsibilities undertaken by the institution, e.g. training school for nurses or midwives. The increasing amount of operative work undertaken is shown in the following table :—

	1935		1936		Total
	Major Operations	Minor Operations	Major Operations	Minor Operations	
Haymeads .	71	57	68	54	250
Oster House .	12	39	34	59	144
Shrodells .	191	41	180	70	482
Wellhouse .	528	296	651	368	1,843
Total .	802	433	933	551	2,719

As regards the detailed carrying out of the duties of the Medical Staff there is little to report except to give expression to appreciation of the conscientious manner in which these duties are performed and to the high standard of skill more especially in regard to surgical work which has been attained in some of the institutions.

Nursing Staff.—During the year special attention has been given to the nursing service in Public Assistance Institutions, and to the conditions of such service and the salaries paid to members of the nursing staff. Several reports on this subject have been considered and additional staff has been approved for some of the institutions. A special sub-committee was appointed by the Public Assistance Committee to consider the terms of employment of nursing staffs and to draw up a scale of salaries. This has been done and the new scale, which is a considerable advance on that adopted in 1931, comes into operation on 1st April, 1937. In addition the scheme provides for all posts in the service except that of Probationer Nurse to be designated as established posts for superannuation purposes and lays down the holidays as four weeks and three weeks for two divisions of the staff. It also makes provision for the payment of an allowance during the holiday period. The sub-committee will also have under consideration at an early date the question

of the hours of duty of both day and night staff with the view of restricting these to 56 hours if possible and they will further consider the question of presenting medals or badges with a bonus to members of the nursing staff for long time service.

Patients Admitted.—Various questions have arisen during the year in connection with the admission of patients in Public Assistance Institutions. Special attention has been given during the year to the admission of maternity cases. The ever-increasing demand for admission to maternity units by normal cases has tended to create difficulties in connection with the administration. The primary function of the maternity unit of a hospital or institution is to assist in reducing maternal mortality by providing hospital accommodation for complicated cases and for cases from homes, the character of which is such as likely to be prejudicial to the health of mother or child. If the maternity accommodation which is available is over-weighted with normal cases from good homes the interests of the special cases for which the accommodation is primarily intended are liable to suffer, while overcrowding of the unit with its undesirable possibilities is certain to occur. In order to control admission so that the special cases may receive first consideration patients applying for admission to a maternity unit are now referred to the ante-natal clinic. A new application form has also been drawn up which provides for fuller information regarding the reasons for applying for admission and the character of the home conditions, the use of which will provide a more helpful guide as to the eligibility of applicants for admission.

A large percentage of beds in Public Assistance Institutions is occupied by chronic and senile cases and Welfield, Hatfield, is specially reserved for female patients of this type. The accommodation now available for the chronic and senile type of patient, more especially the new and converted accommodation, has reached a high standard of excellence and as an example of this reference may be made to the bright and cheerful character of the new wards at Haymeads, Hempstead House, and Western House. Special cases of disease receive special attention and arrangements also exist by which not only are the services of the consulting staff available for such cases but where necessary they are transferred to other hospitals for expert treatment, as for example, cases of malignant disease for radium treatment.

District Medical Service.—The District Medical Officers are responsible for the visiting and treatment of district patients,

and although the tendency is for all cases requiring anything beyond simple measures to be referred for internal treatment facilities are provided for certain forms of treatment requiring special appliances or drugs. The nursing of district patients is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Associations, and during the year 1936 they made approximately 8,263 visits to 306 sick and infirm persons in their homes.

The following table shows the existing accommodation in the County Institutions.

Guardians Committee Area.	Institution.	SICK WARDS.			OTHER WARDS.			Total.
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	
Barnet .	Barnet . . .	—	—	—	110	81	30	221
	„ Wellhouse Hospital	113	181	32	—	—	—	382
	„ Maternity Unit .	—	23	23	—	—	—	
	„ Ante-Natal Unit .	—	10	—	—	—	—	
	Hatfield . . .	—	53	—	3	17	—	73
Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford	75	84	7	59	77	11	313
Dacorum .	Hemel Hempstead	59	51	12	73	49	—	244
East Herts	Ware . . .	41	41	3	68	51	10	264
	<i>Infirm Ward</i>	28	22					
Hitchin .	Hitchin . . .	40	44	4	70	66	26	250
St. Albans	St. Albans . .	60	79	25	64	40	16	312
	<i>Maternity Unit</i>		14	14				
Watford .	Watford . . .	142	157	14	133	102	30	578
	Total . . .	558	749	134	580	483	123	2,637

Under agreements with Voluntary Hospitals:—

Hertford County Hospital	50
Bishop's Stortford Voluntary Hospital	20

Grand total 2,707

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

The death-rate from epidemic disease was 0·10 compared with 0·14 last year. The total number of deaths from epidemic disease for 1936 was 47, compared with 64 last year.

The death-rate from epidemic disease was slightly higher in urban than in rural districts. The highest rate reached was

TABLE 16.
DEATH-RATES FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

(For each District see Table 18.)

	Hertfordshire.					
	Urban.		Rural.		County.	
	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.
1934	·14	43	·21	28	·16	71
1935	·14	47	·14	17	·14	64
1936	·10	36	·09	11	·10	47

0·31 (Cheshunt). In 4 urban and 2 rural districts the death-rate was over 0·2 per 1,000 and in 8 urban and 6 rural districts there were no deaths from epidemic disease. In rural districts the highest death-rate was 0·23 (Barnet and Hemel Hempstead).

Smallpox.—There were no cases of smallpox notified during the year.

Measles and Whooping-Cough.—The number of deaths from measles during the year was 5, compared with 4 last year. There were 12 deaths from whooping-cough compared with 13 last year, 10 in urban districts, and 2 in rural districts. Of the 12 deaths 5 were under the age of twelve months compared with 6 last year.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 648 notifications of scarlet fever during the year compared with 882 notifications last year. There were 2 deaths from scarlet fever during the year, compared with 3 last year. Its chief centres were the urban districts of Barnet, East Barnet, Hitchin, St. Albans, and Watford, and the rural districts of Hitchin, Watford, and Ware.

Influenza.—There were 55 deaths from this disease, compared with 56. Of this number 45 occurred in urban districts and 10 in rural districts. A somewhat widespread outbreak of influenza of a sharp but not very prolonged type occurred during the early part of 1937 and the statistics for this year will undoubtedly show an increase in the number of deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria.—There were 227 cases of diphtheria notified during the year compared with 383 in 1935, 182 in the urban districts and 45 in the rural districts. The highest number of notifications was received from the urban districts of Cheshunt (53) and Hemel Hempstead (47), and from the rural districts of St. Albans (14), and Hemel Hempstead (12). There were

TABLE 17.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

New cases, returned by District Medical Officers of Health, in the year ending 31st December, 1936.

District. A	Civil Population, by Estimate 1935. B	COMMONLY NOTIFIABLE.									
		C Smallpox.	D Scarlet Fever.	E Diphtheria.	F Enteric Fever.	G Puerperal Fever.	H Puerperal Pyrexia.	I Erysipelas.	J Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Tuber- culosis.	
										K Pulmon- ary.	L Non-Pul- monary.
URBAN.											
1. Baldock . . .	3,675	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
2. Barnet . . .	19,650	—	34	3	—	3	33	15	2	8	5
3. Bishop's Stortford	10,580	—	5	2	—	1	2	1	2	12	4
4. Bushey . . .	12,490	—	21	8	2	—	—	2	—	5	2
5. Cheshunt . . .	16,090	—	15	53	1	1	2	6	—	12	7
6. Chorleywood . .	3,485	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
7. East Barnet . .	28,280	—	50	6	2	—	6	2	1	20	—
8. Great Berkhamstead	10,080	—	13	10	2	—	—	—	—	12	2
9. Harpenden . . .	10,970	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
10. Hemel Hempstead	18,050	—	31	47	1	3	—	1	2	16	4
11. Hertford . . .	13,030	—	21	4	1	—	—	—	—	5	2
12. Hitchin . . .	16,100	—	55	2	—	1	1	3	—	4	3
13. Hoddesdon . . .	11,670	—	22	2	1	—	—	2	—	7	6
14. Letchworth . .	15,350	—	11	6	—	1	—	2	—	16	8
15. Rickmansworth .	15,300	—	7	1	—	1	—	5	—	11	1
16. Royston . . .	3,810	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
17. St. Albans . . .	35,370	—	44	11	—	2	8	5	3	37	10
18. Sawbridgeworth .	2,920	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
19. Stevenage . . .	5,730	—	3	9	—	—	1	—	—	4	4
20. Tring . . .	4,440	—	17	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
21. Ware . . .	7,400	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	1
22. Watford . . .	64,110	—	73	14	5	3	13	15	—	71	20
23. Welwyn Garden City	10,720	—	22	2	—	—	—	1	—	5	—
Total Urban . . .	339,300	—	469	182	15	16	66	62	10	266	85
RURAL.											
1. Barnet . . .	8,390	—	12	1	—	—	1	5	—	4	1
2. Berkhamstead . .	4,196	—	5	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	1
3. Braughing . . .	8,938	—	8	—	1	—	2	1	—	8	2
4. Hatfield . . .	14,640	—	10	1	2	—	—	6	—	13	—
5. Hemel Hempstead	8,515	—	9	12	—	—	—	1	—	4	2
6. Hertford . . .	6,907	—	21	—	1	—	—	3	—	7	1
7. Hitchin . . .	18,900	—	38	5	1	—	—	—	—	4	6
8. St. Albans . . .	19,300	—	12	14	3	1	2	4	—	13	—
9. Ware . . .	9,541	—	26	8	—	—	—	1	1	4	3
10. Watford . . .	17,510	—	27	1	—	—	—	6	2	10	3
11. Welwyn . . .	4,013	—	10	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total Rural . . .	120,850	—	179	45	11	1	5	28	3	70	20
Total for County . .	460,150	—	648	227	26	17	71	90	13	336	105

10 deaths from diphtheria compared with 34 last year, 7 in urban districts, and 3 in rural districts.

A scheme for proving immunization against diphtheria is now available in many districts in the County.

Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever.—The total number of cases of enteric fever, including typhoid and paratyphoid fever, notified during the year was 26, compared with 24 last year; of this number, 10 were cases of paratyphoid fever. Of the cases of enteric fever, 15 were notified from urban districts and 11 from rural districts. The largest number of cases of enteric fever notified in one district was 5 (Watford Borough). There were 2 deaths from enteric fever, compared with 3 last year.

Undulant Fever.—There were 2 cases of undulant fever notified during the year, the same number as for 1935.

Puerperal Fever.—There were 17 cases of puerperal fever notified during the year, compared with 19 last year, 16 in urban districts and 1 in rural districts. Seventy-one cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified compared with 67 last year, 66 in urban districts and 5 in rural districts. The largest number of cases of puerperal fever notified in urban districts was 3 (Barnet, Hemel Hempstead, and Watford). The deaths from puerperal fever numbered 3, compared with 5 last year.

Erysipelas.—There were 90 cases of erysipelas notified during the year, 62 in urban districts, and 28 in rural districts, compared with 110 for the previous year, but no information is available regarding the actual number of deaths in the County from this cause. The largest number notified in the urban districts was 15 (Barnet and Watford), and in the rural districts 6 (Watford and Hatfield).

Meningococcal Meningitis and Encephalitis Lethargica. — There were 7 notifications of meningococcal meningitis, compared with 3 last year, all in urban districts. There were 8 deaths from this disease compared with 4 last year, 5 in urban and 3 in rural districts. There was one notification of encephalitis lethargica, and 8 deaths from this disease, from which it will be observed that there is considerable laxity in carrying out the notification of this disease.

Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis. — There were 2 cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year, and one death from this cause; no cases of polioencephalitis were notified during the year.

Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia.—There were 242 cases of pneumonia, including all forms, notified during the year compared with 233 last year, the number of deaths from this cause being 230 compared with 201 last year. There were 176 deaths in urban districts and 54 in rural districts. The increase in deaths from this disease was in urban districts, the number in rural districts being less. In both urban and rural districts the highest numbers of deaths occurred in the age group over 75.

Bronchitis.—The number of deaths from bronchitis was 133, compared with 117 last year. The number of deaths in urban districts was 101 and in rural districts 32. Of the total number of deaths from bronchitis 71 were males and 62 were females. There were 9 deaths from bronchitis under the age of twelve months, compared with 10 last year. Of the 133 deaths from bronchitis 78 were over the age of 75.

Heart Disease.—There was an increase in the number of deaths from heart disease, which was 1,298, compared with 1,109 for 1935. Of the total number, 938 were in urban and 360 in rural districts, and 648 were males and 650 were females, the increase affecting both males and females. Of the 1,298 deaths 653 were over the age of 75.

Other Diseases.—The number of deaths from acute and chronic Bright's disease was 136, compared with 131 last year. The number of deaths from cerebral hæmorrhage was 212 compared with 225. The number of deaths from cirrhosis of the liver was 15 as compared with 11 last year. The deaths from appendicitis were 30 as compared with 37 last year. There were 76 deaths from diabetes during the year, 54 in urban districts and 22 in rural districts. Of the total number of deaths from this disease there were 42 in persons over the age of 65. The number of deaths from violence was 243, including 48 deaths from suicide.

Other Notifiable Diseases.—During the year 3 cases of dysentery were notified, and the number of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year was 13, the same as last year. Three cases of malaria were notified. One case of anthrax and one case of blackwater fever were also notified during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The following is the scheme in the County for the provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of infectious diseases under Section 63 of "The Local Government Act, 1929".

TABLE 18.—CHIEF STATISTICS OF URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1936.

As compared with those for 1935 and with the averages for ten years 1911-1920 and 1921-1930.

DISTRICTS.	POPULATION.				Rooms per Person, 1921.	BIRTH-RATE. §				DEATH-RATE. §				INFANT MORTALITY.				EPIDEMIC MORTALITY §		DEATH-RATE FROM PHTHISIS. §				DEATH-RATE FROM CANCER. §				DISTRICT.
	By estimate, 1936.	By Census, 1931.	By Census, 1921.	By Census, 1911.		1936.	1935.	10 years. *	10 years. ‡	1936.	Crude 1935.	10 years. *	10 years. ‡	1936.	1935.	10 years. *	10 years. ‡	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	10 years. *	10 years. ‡	1936.	1935.	10 years. *	10 years. ‡	
Urban. SUMMARY	339,300	280,945	228,546	194,242	1.26	14.6	13.9	16.1	18.0	10.0	9.7	10.4	11.6	40	34	46	67	1.0	1.4	4.5	4.4	.6	.8	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.2	Urban.
1 Baldock ...	3,675	3,171	2,475	2,094	1.31	18.7	16.8	16.1	19.9	13.3	10.6	13.2	14.8	29	...	47	85	...	2.8	5.4	2.8	.6	.9	3.8	2.5	1.7	1.2	1
2 Barnet ...	19,650	14,721	11,740	10,440	1.27	14.3	12.8	15.1	16.5	10.3	10.3	10.9	11.1	43	34	49	67	1.0	1.6	3.5	3.8	.5	.5	1.3	2.1	1.5	1.4	2
3 Berkhamstead ...	10,080	8,053	7,250	7,302	1.40	11.5	11.4	15.0	16.0	11.4	11.8	11.2	12.6	86	28	50	62	.09	3.2	8.9	5.3	.7	.6	1.7	2.9	1.4	1.1	3
4 Bishop's Stortford	10,580	9,509	8,840	8,721	1.35	13.9	13.0	13.9	16.8	9.2	10.1	11.6	12.7	27	29	50	76	...	1.8	3.7	3.7	.6	.6	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.3	4
5 Bushey ...	12,490	11,243	8,020	6,978	1.36	11.3	11.6	14.2	15.3	8.1	9.6	9.2	9.6	7	84	51	59	...	.08	1.6	2.4	.5	.6	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.1	5
6 Cheshunt ...	16,090	14,651	13,640	12,954	1.12	14.7	15.7	17.5	20.8	11.0	10.7	9.8	11.6	42	48	45	71	3.1	1.2	2.4	2.5	.6	.8	2.1	1.5	1.1	1.0	6
7 Chorleywood ...	3,485	3,296	2,331	...	1.47	9.4	6.0	14.3	...	9.7	7.7	9.5	...	30	48	55	...	...	...	2.8	2.8	.5	...	1.4	2.5	1.1	...	7
8 East Barnet ...	28,280	18,542	13,490	13,381	1.32	15.6	15.1	16.2	16.8	7.6	8.4	9.6	9.8	32	28	49	48	.07	1.6	2.1	2.0	.4	.6	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.1	8
9 Harpenden ...	10,970	8,349	6,670	6,172	1.43	11.7	11.8	11.5	14.6	11.1	8.2	9.3	10.2	55	16	37	51	.7	2.8	6.4	3.8	.4	.6	2.0	.9	1.4	1.3	9
10 Hemel Hempstead	18,050	15,122	13,920	12,888	1.24	16.2	15.4	15.5	20.3	11.5	9.9	10.7	12.9	41	38	41	60	2.7	1.7	6.6	4.6	.4	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.1	10
11 Hertford ...	13,030	11,376	10,750	10,383	1.24	14.1	10.5	15.6	19.1	9.3	9.9	11.6	13.8	33	72	47	78	.07	.07	3.8	4.5	.6	.9	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.7	11
12 Hitchin ...	16,100	14,382	13,352	11,905	1.29	14.7	14.6	16.3	19.7	10.3	9.6	11.8	13.2	55	40	61	67	2.4	1.2	4.3	5.1	.5	.7	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3	12
13 Hoddesdon ...	11,670	6,811	5,400	5,196	1.27	15.3	13.8	17.0	18.3	11.5	9.8	12.2	13.1	56	47	50	70	.08	.09	5.9	1.8	.3	1.0	8.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	13
14 Letchworth ...	15,350	14,454	10,210	...	1.15	14.0	12.2	17.3	...	8.4	7.6	8.1	...	32	17	45	...	.06	...	3.2	3.3	.5	...	1.1	.8	1.0	...	14
15 Rickmansworth ...	15,300	10,810	7,520	6,288	1.24	16.2	17.0	18.3	18.4	8.6	10.1	10.9	10.0	16	27	44	65	1.4	...	1.9	4.5	.5	.7	1.3	1.1	.9	.9	15
16 Royston ...	3,810	3,831	3,780	3,985	1.42	11.0	8.9	13.3	15.6	11.5	11.0	12.8	13.0	...	...	48	74	...	...	2.6	2.6	.4	1.0	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.4	16
17 St. Albans ...	35,370	28,625	25,620	18,133	1.29	14.5	13.8	14.4	17.6	11.2	11.6	10.8	11.6	44	40	55	65	.05	3.8	7.0	6.2	.6	.7	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.2	17
18 Sawbridgeworth ...	2,920	2,604	2,285	2,304	1.30	9.2	10.8	16.5	17.0	10.9	11.2	10.5	13.5	37	32	56	76	...	...	6.8	...	.2	.6	1.7	1.0	1.1	.7	18
19 Stevenage ...	5,730	5,476	5,023	4,856	1.31	11.8	10.6	16.4	19.1	11.5	11.0	10.7	11.6	73	...	49	63	.17	.17	1.7	3.4	.2	.6	1.3	2.2	1.2	1.1	19
20 Tring ...	4,440	4,364	4,278	4,481	1.36	10.1	17.9	16.6	18.9	12.3	10.7	13.1	13.2	22	37	33	54	...	...	6.7	...	.6	.7	1.0	2.0	1.8	1.4	20
21 Ware ...	7,400	6,171	5,950	5,842	1.14	16.6	15.0	18.6	19.6	11.2	9.9	11.8	13.3	41	18	44	69	...	.13	1.0	5.5	.6	.7	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.1	21
22 Watford ...	64,110	56,799	46,002	40,939	1.18	14.8	14.4	16.8	18.0	10.2	9.3	9.7	10.7	39	33	50	73	.07	.09	4.5	6.2	.7	.9	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	22
23 Welwyn Gdn. City	10,720	8,585	...	...	...	20.8	19.8	...	...	7.7	5.9	...	...	63	35	...	...	.09	...	5.5	6.9	...	...	1.93	.9	...	...	23
Rural. SUMMARY	120,850	120,214	103,674	117,042	1.30	14.1	13.8	14.8	18.2	10.0	10.0	10.3	11.6	30	38	45	58	.09	1.4	3.3	4.8	.5	.7	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	Rural.
1 Barnet ...	8,930	6,398	4,500	4,969	1.24	11.3	16.6	17.2	19.3	7.9	8.7	9.8	9.6	42	45	37	51	.23	...	3.5	3.0	.4	.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	.8	1
2 Berkhamstead ...	4,196	5,379	4,692	4,707	1.26	18.1	14.2	15.8	17.2	11.4	9.1	11.8	13.1	13	31	59	69	...	...	9.5	...	.7	.5	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.3	2
3 Braughing ...	8,938	...	...	...	...	12.7	11.8	...	...	12.7	10.9	...	...	17	50	...	...	...	4.4	4.4	5.9	...	...	1.6	1.3	...	...	3
4 Hatfield ...	14,640	10,999	8,850	8,592	1.29	16.8	14.8	17.8	19.1	9.6	10.2	9.5	11.9	16	35	39	54	.19	1.4	3.4	3.6	.4	.8	1.7	2.0	1.3	1.1	4
5 Hemel Hempstead	8,515	8,271	6,840	6,565	1.31	14.7	14.1	17.6	18.9	10.4	13.2	10.8	12.7	8	67	47	54	.23	...	5.9	7.0	.4	.7	1.0	1.8	1.3	1.2	5
6 Hertford ...	6,907	7,692	7,138	7,659	1.35	12.5	13.5	15.6	18.8	12.5	11.5	11.0	12.0	69	42	42	81	...	1.4	5.8	7.1	.4	.5	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	6
7 Hitchin ...	18,900	14,595	12,978	18,666	1.29	13.0	14.3	17.3	20.4	12.1	12.1	11.4	10.9	53	51	42	58	.05	.05	3.1	.2	.6	.7	2.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	7
8 St. Albans ...	19,300	19,571	14,580	19,463	1.20	15.1	14.1	14.9	20.4	7.5	6.5	8.1	12.0	44	11	46	62	.15	2.0	1.05	6.6	.5	.7	1.0	.6	1.0	1.0	8
9 Ware ...	9,541	11,892	11,260	11,464	1.32	13.2	12.0	16.1	17.1	12.1	11.0	12.0	12.2	32	48	42	57	...	3.8	1.0	9.5	.6	.7	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	9
10 Watford ...	17,510	18,122	16,158	17,776	1.36	14.0	12.8	12.2	14.4	8.2	7.9	7.7	10.3	8	47	39	59	...	1.1	3.9	3.8	.5	.8	1.0	.8	...	1.0	10
11 Welwyn ...	4,013	3,699	2,708	2,419	1.31	11.2	15.9	20.5	17.0	7.9	11.0	10.3	10.2	36	...	45	37	...	...	2.4	...	.3	.4	1.99	2.4	1.3	1.1	11
COUNTY SUMMARY	460,150	401,159	332,220	311,284	1.27	14.4	13.9	15.9	18.1	10.0	9.8	10.4	11.6	37	35	47	64	1.0	1.4	4.2	4.5	.5	.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	County

* 1921-1930.

‡ 1911-1920.

§ Per 1,000 of population.

|| Per 1,000 births.

The County has been divided into areas consisting of the County Districts specified in the second column of the subjoined table, and it is proposed that accommodation shall be provided in each area not less than that specified in the third column and placed opposite to the number and description of the area :—

(1)	(2)	(3)
<i>No. of Area.</i>	<i>County Districts comprised in area.</i>	<i>Minimum accommodation in beds.</i>
i	Barnet U.D. East Barnet U.D. Barnet R.D.	50
ii	Borough of Hemel Hempstead Great Berkhamstead U.D. Tring U.D. Berkhamstead R.D. Hemel Hempstead R.D.	45
iii	Borough of Hertford Bishop's Stortford U.D. Sawbridgeworth U.D. Ware U.D. Hoddesdon U.D. Cheshunt U.D. Hertford R.D. Ware R.D. Braughing R.D. (including Buntingford R.D.) Hatfield R.D.	80
iv	Baldock U.D. Hitchin U.D. Letchworth U.D. Royston U.D. Stevenage U.D. Hitchin R.D. (including Ashwell R.D.) Welwyn R.D.	60
v	City of St. Albans Harpenden U.D. Welwyn Garden City U.D. St. Albans R.D.	65
vi	Borough of Watford Bushey U.D. Chorleywood U.D. Rickmansworth U.D. Watford R.D.	100

Progress has been made during the year in establishing the new Hospital Districts and the Provisional Orders for the extension of the St. Albans, North Herts, and East Herts Hospital Districts are now in operation.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In the following report, for which I am indebted to Dr. Kimber, particulars are given of the work carried out during the year at the laboratory at Hill End Hospital.

HILL END HOSPITAL LABORATORY REPORT FOR 1936.

By *W. J. T. Kimber, L.R.C.P., D.P.M.*, Medical Superintendent, and *A. Margaret McGrath, B.A., M.B., D.P.M.*, Pathologist.

The total number of examinations made during the year was 6,696, of which 1,735 were for the Hospital and 4,961 for the County Medical Officer of Health, local authorities, and private practitioners. This is an increase of 6 per cent on the work of last year.

In the later part of the year the Meinicke test for the diagnosis of syphilis was taken up and all sera are now examined by this test as well as the Wassermann reaction. It has proved very useful in the cases of mental deficientes where the W.R. is apt to be unreliable in congenital cases. It has also helped in several other cases of "doubtful" W.R.s. The technique employed has been that in use at the Maudsley Hospital. The test is simple, takes up little time, and if the conditions are carefully maintained, is easily read. In this laboratory it is greatly preferred to the Kahn test. I have to thank the workers in the Maudsley Hospital Laboratory for much help and assistance in this matter.

Towards the end of the year the estimation of the bromide content of the blood of some old and some newly admitted patients has been undertaken, but it is too early to comment on the result.

They have, however, proved interesting and instructive.

Summary of work undertaken for the County Council Health Department and other outside Authorities :—

SPUTA.

For tubercle bacilli (16·6 per cent positive)	1,322
For organisms (other than T.B.)	18

SWABS.

For K.L.B. (8·6 per cent positive)	750
For hæmolytic streptococci (12 per cent positive)	175
For other organisms	60

MILKS. (For Grading.)

Accredited (88.0 per cent conformed to standard)	1,080
Pasteurized	23
Ordinary	88
School	96
Phosphatase	4
For tubercle bacilli (microscopy)	226
For tubercle bacilli (Biological test)	41
Human milk for organisms	2

URINE.

Routine	4
Microscopy	73
Culture	47
For tubercle bacilli	19
Diastase content	1
For urea percentage	7
For urea concentration test	3
For sugar percentage	12
Simple chemical other than routine	10
For urea clearance test	7

FAECES.

For culture	18
For tubercle bacilli	11
For occult blood	27
For worms	2
For fat content	1

PUS.

For organisms and culture	21
---------------------------	----

SMEARS.

For organisms	46
---------------	----

BLOOD.

Blood counts	69
Platelet count	1
Blood phosphorous	1
For culture	6
Urea content	36
Sugar content (single specimens)	32
Sedimentation rate	1
Blood calcium content	1
Wassermann reaction	209
Kahn reaction	21
Meinicke reaction	154
Complement fixation test for G.C.	3
Widal	29
Malaria	2
Van den Bergh	1
Fragility of R.B.C.	1

PLEURAL and other fluids for examination	43
--	----

C.S.F.

For cells Lange, etc.	30
For W.R.	8
For tubercle bacilli	16
For culture	22
For sugar	3
Urea	1
Chlorides	13
Microscopy	4

HAIR.						
For ringworm	.	.	.	.	.	2
VACCINES PREPARED	.	.	.	.	.	7
SECTIONS	.	.	.	.	.	16
GUINEA PIG INNOCULATIONS.						
For tubercle bacilli (other than milk samples)						2
For virulence test for K.L.B.	.	.				4
WATER.						
For chemical examination	.	.	.	.	.	12
For bacteriological examination	.	.				10
FOOD.						
For poisoning	.	.	.	.	.	3
SEMEN.						
For examination	.	.	.	.	.	1
TEST MEALS	.	.	.	.	.	3
Total . . .						4,961

The particulars given above indicate the extent to which the work at the Hill End Hospital Laboratory is developing and emphasizes its value in relation to the Public Health services in the county.

PUBLIC VACCINATION.

The total number of vaccinations during the year was 1,664, compared with 1,587 last year.

The increase is slight, having regard to the increase of the population in the County and when one considers that during the year the number of births was 6,705. Some years ago an effort was made to obtain permission to provide facilities for the vaccination of babies at the Welfare Centres in the county, but nothing came of it. Mothers attending the centres are advised to have their children vaccinated, but owing to the ease with which exemption is obtained the results are not very good.

As regards the number of vaccinations carried out, the following figures refer to the twelve months ending 31st December, 1935 :—

Primary Vaccinations	.	1,563
Revaccinations	.	101
Total . . .		1,664

Of the primary vaccinations, 1,423 were under one year of age, and 140 were one year and upwards. The largest number of primary vaccinations during the period stated was carried out in the following districts : Barnet (266), St. Albans (115), Watford (90). The largest number of revaccinations was carried out in Watford (17).

NURSING HOMES.

“ The Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927,” provides for the registration and inspection of nursing homes and it is an offence under the Act for any person to carry on a nursing home without being duly registered.

A nursing home is defined under the Act as any premises used or intended to be used for the reception of and the providing of nursing for persons suffering from any sickness, injury, or infirmity, and includes a maternity home ; it does not include (a) any hospital or premises maintained or controlled by a Government department or local authority or any other body of persons constituted by Special Act of Parliament or incorporated by Royal Charter ; (b) any institution for lunatics within the meaning of the “ Lunacy Act, 1890 ” ; and (c) any certified institution, certified house, or approved home within the meaning of “ The Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 ”.

The County Council has made by-laws under the Act with respect to nursing homes in the county.

At the present time there are 44 nursing homes in the County which are registered under the Act. It is not yet fully realized that all premises which provide accommodation for payment for persons whose state of health is such as to require nursing must be registered under the Act. The homes which are inspected from time to time, vary in size and standard of efficiency. The smaller Nursing Homes, many of which have been in existence for some considerable time, are usually less up-to-date, but some of them serve a very useful purpose in providing accommodation for aged and infirm persons. Little difficulty has been experienced in securing necessary improvements where such are indicated.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The scheme of Maternity and Child Welfare in the County is now a fairly comprehensive one and is being improved and extended from year to year. The coming into operation of the Midwives Act of 1936 has led to the formation of a scheme for the provision of a more efficient service of midwives in the county through the medium of the County Nursing Association. At the present time consideration is being given to the provision of increased facilities for the supervision and treatment of maternity cases, while the arrangements for the provision of milk for expectant and nursing mothers and young children have been extended.

TABLE 19. GIVING PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT VOLUNTARY MATERNITY

Centres	No. of times Centre open.	No. of mothers attending.	No. of children who attended Centre for first time during 1936 and who, on the date of their first attendance, were: (a) Under 1 year of age. (Excluding children known to have attended Centre in another district previously.)	(b) Between 1 and 5 years of age.	No. of children who attended Centre during 1936 and who at the end of the year were: (a) Under 1 year of age.	(b) Over 1 year of age.	No. of attendances at Centre by children: (a) Under 1 year of age.	(b) Between 1 and 5 years of age.	TOTAL CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCES.	Average attendance of children.
Aldbury	23	27	8	1	7	28	111	241	352	15.3
Apsley End	23	117	56	22	47	86	495	407	902	39.2
Ashwell	27	34	16	7	11	37	140	210	350	13.0
Baldock	46	123	56	11	51	117	996	866	1,862	40.5
Boreham Wood	22	102	48	13	39	91	391	395	786	35.7
Braughing	30	51	21	43	9	55	126	238	364	12.1
Buntingford	21	40	13	5	10	48	102	200	302	14.4
Bushey	44	108	60	27	55	88	744	409	1,153	26.2
Chipperfield	24	71	26	1	23	72	312	494	806	33.6
Chorleywood	25	38	16	—	12	39	238	376	614	24.6
Colney Heath	22	51	12	14	11	69	84	379	463	21.0
Gilston from 11.3.36	11	15	7	13	6	14	34	77	111	10.1
Harpenden	32	200	67	21	57	183	811	1,549	2,360	73.8
Hoddesdon	49	187	90	18	76	152	1,357	818	2,175	44.4
Kimpton	26	62	14	1	13	78	209	413	622	23.9
King's Langley	12	63	27	11	21	58	156	223	379	31.6
Knebworth	45	42	24	4	20	37	373	365	738	16.4
Langleybury	22	34	20	5	11	44	151	187	338	15.4
London Colney	21	88	32	2	25	88	298	455	753	35.9
Much Hadham	8	36	22	39	13	48	67	185	252	31.5
The Mundens from 13.5.36	4	37	15	37	7	45	25	90	115	28.8
North Mymms	26	46	20	4	17	53	320	442	762	29.3
Potten End	11	38	15	3	12	36	85	199	284	25.8
Little Gaddesden	11	18	7	2	5	22	41	112	153	13.9
Radlett	20	102	27	11	25	97	225	614	839	42.0
Redbourn	24	61	21	7	17	76	220	320	540	22.5
Rickmansworth	22	70	36	9	27	49	283	76	359	16.3
Royston	24	45	18	1	17	35	218	219	437	18.2
Tewin and Datchworth	24	65	23	5	21	66	165	351	516	21.5
Woolmer Green	24	40	13	6	10	42	197	177	374	15.6
Ware	49	203	97	30	79	214	843	1,105	1,948	39.8
Watton	10	41	16	10	14	39	74	231	305	30.5
Welwyn	47	79	21	9	14	85	422	447	869	18.5
Codicote	33	37	15	3	16	36	184	249	433	13.1
Welwyn Garden City Peartree	56	288	104	15	94	252	2,047	879	2,926	52.3
Lawrence Hall	52	233	78	13	68	201	1,458	1,190	2,648	50.9
Wheathampstead	12	51	23	5	20	56	175	189	364	30.3
Wigginton	11	19	7	—	7	17	72	143	215	19.5
Watford Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	993	2,962	1,191	428	987	2,853	14,249	15,520	29,769	30.0

AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINICS DURING 1936.

No. of deaths of children.	No. of children who had Orthopaedic Treatment.	No. of infant consultations.	No. of mothers' consultations.	No. of talks given at Centre.	No. of times Ante-natal Clinic open.	No. of patients who attended Clinic : (a) Ante-natal patients.	(b) Post-natal patients.	No. of attendances by : (a) Ante-natal patients.	(b) Post-natal patients.	Total attendances.	Average attendance of patients per session.	No. of consultations : (a) Ante-natal.	(b) Post-natal.	No. of Doctors' attendances at Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics.
—	—	48	1	—	—	3	—	3	—	3	—	2	—	10
—	—	302	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
1	—	142	14	3	27	14	2	35	6	41	1.5	34	6	27
—	1	689	11	1	11	36	13	85	15	100	9.1	78	15	55
—	—	219	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
—	—	33	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	13	85	—	—	10	6	—	8	—	8	0.8	8	—	10
—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	10	409	25	26	12	16	12	45	14	59	4.9	45	14	36
—	—	614	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
—	—	168	2	—	12	7	—	10	—	10	0.8	10	—	12
—	—	11	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
1	10	575	7	—	50	86	—	614	—	614	12.3	203	—	45
1	45	633	—	—	12	88	4	224	4	228	19.0	224	4	36
1	—	30	10	6	10	16	—	32	—	32	3.2	32	—	10
1	—	379	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
—	—	186	2	—	11	6	1	10	2	12	1.1	10	2	11
—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
—	—	70	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
—	1	94	—	—	8	15	6	40	6	46	5.8	36	2	7
—	—	42	2	1	4	3	—	4	—	4	1.0	4	—	4
—	—	183	43	—	15	6	—	20	—	20	1.3	20	—	15
—	—	169	6	4	3	3	1	6	1	7	2.3	6	1	8
—	—	69	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
—	—	242	—	—	20	4	—	7	—	7	0.4	7	—	20
—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
—	—	97	1	—	10	1	—	1	—	1	0.1	1	—	10
—	—	103	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
—	—	88	26	—	—	6	4	10	8	18	—	10	8	12
—	—	105	12	—	12	11	5	31	8	39	3.3	28	8	12
1	1	485	1	1	21	95	2	277	2	279	13.3	277	2	42
—	—	58	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
—	—	268	85	—	12	25	7	68	9	77	6.4	68	9	35
—	—	130	1	—	12	21	—	51	—	51	4.3	51	—	12
2	17	1,102	24	5	21	86	14	238	18	256	12.2	238	18	76
1	24	988	17	2	12	40	5	118	6	124	10.3	118	6	64
—	1	62	1	—	10	15	1	30	1	31	3.1	27	1	9
—	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
—	—	—	—	—	51	94	—	191	—	191	3.7	139	—	51
9	123	8,956	317	95	366	703	77	2,158	100	2,258	6.2	1,676	96	783

TABLE 20.
GIVING PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT VOLUNTARY WEIGHING
CENTRES DURING 1935.

Centre.	No of Times Centre Open.	No. of Mothers Attending.	No. of children who at- tended Centre for first time during 1936 and who on the date of their first attendance were (a) Under 1 year of age (Ex- cluding) those known to have attended Centre in another district previous- ly.	(b) Between 1 and 5 years of age.	No. of Children who at- tended Centre during 1936 and who at the end of the year were (a) Under 1 year of age.	(b) Over 1 year of age.	No. of Attendances at Centre by Children — (a) Under 1 year of age.	(b) Between 1 and 5 years of age.	Total Children's Attendances.	Average Attendance of Children per Session.	No. of Deaths of Children.	No. of Children who had Orthopaedic Treatment.	No. of Talks given at Centre.
Croxley Green	12	75	43	1	37	46	243	77	320	26.7	—	1	12
Cuffley	23	26	12	1	8	20	94	32	126	5.5	—	—	—
Great and Little Amwell	11	13	7	—	7	16	34	65	99	9.0	—	—	—
High Cross and Thundridge	12	32	17	4	12	42	77	171	248	20.7	—	—	1
King's Walden	45	21	3	3	—	27	42	440	482	10.7	—	—	11
Northaw	8	10	5	—	4	6	20	2	22	2.8	—	—	—
St. Albans (The Camp)	26	95	45	5	34	83	499	500	999	38.4	—	—	—
St. Albans (St. Johns)	26	43	14	7	10	42	119	344	463	17.8	—	—	—
Stanstead Abbots	23	26	10	2	6	30	114	90	204	8.9	—	—	—
Weston	12	23	4	4	4	26	33	243	276	23.0	—	—	—
Total	198	364	160	27	122	338	1275	1964	3239	16.4	—	1	24

The scheme of Maternity and Child Welfare in the County includes both official and voluntary effort, and is summarized as follows : (1) Thirteen County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, at which consultations are held, infants are weighed, and instruction and advice are given to nursing and expectant mothers ; in addition, also, a considerable amount of voluntary work is undertaken in various directions by ladies who are interested in the work of the Centres ; (2) eight special ante-natal clinics at Barnet, Berkhamstead, East Barnet, Hertford, Hitchin, Letchworth, Tring, and Waltham Cross ; ante-natal clinics are also held at the remaining five Centres ; (3) 40 Voluntary Maternity and Child Welfare Centres ; at a number of which ante-natal supervision is carried out ; (4) 11 weighing centres ; (5) provision of maternity beds in four districts in the County, namely, Hertford, Hitchin, Hemel Hempstead, and Watford ; (6) Convalescent Home treatment ; (7) attendance at orthopædic and massage clinics and dental clinics ; (8) the provision of hospital treatment for orthopædic cases, infantile diarrhoea and ophthalmia neonatorum ; (9) health visiting ; (10) the granting of milk free or at half cost to necessitous mothers and young children on a medical certificate ; (11) grants to the County Nursing Associations towards the provision of a service of midwives ; and (12) arrangements for the hospital treatment of cases of notifiable puerperal fever in approved institutions. Additional arrangements have also been made under the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations for consultation with one or two obstetric surgeons, for skilled nursing and for necessary bacteriological examinations in cases of puerperal pyrexia and sepsis.

Voluntary Centres.—Many of these centres are situated in small towns and villages so that they assist in meeting the requirements of more scattered rural districts. Many of these centres also provide for ante-natal care and supervision. With one exception these centres have been established by District Nursing Associations and as they are attended by the district nurse they thus centralize and co-ordinate for the district the work in connection with the care of mothers and young children. A scheme has been adopted which provides a more uniform basis for the payment of grants by the County Council to voluntary centres. There are now 40 voluntary centres and 11 weighing centres in the county.

Maternity Beds.—Accommodation for maternity cases under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the County Council

is provided at the Watford Maternity Home (21 beds), West Herts Hospital (8 beds), the Maples, Hitchin (7 beds), and the County Hospital, Hertford (6 beds). In addition there are a number of beds provided in various County Institutions. There are excellent maternity units at the Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet, and at Oster House, St. Albans. Arrangements are also made for the admission of complicated maternity cases to the Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, from the northern part of the County. Maternity beds are also available at the Bishop's Stortford voluntary hospital. Cases of puerperal sepsis are sent to Queen Charlotte's Hospital or one of the local hospitals. The results obtained by immediate admission to the former hospital, where treatment of a very specialized character is carried out, are most encouraging. In this connection it should be stated that during the year there were only 3 deaths from puerperal sepsis.

Consultations.—The Obstetric Consultants report as follows on their work during the year :—

Mr. Ellison.—During 1936, I saw twelve patients, having in all fifteen consultations.

Eleven patients were seen during pregnancy. Three because of toxæmic conditions ; of these two continued to term under medical treatment and had normal confinements. The third case was so severe that the pregnancy was artificially terminated.

Two were suffering from cardiac conditions, one was of a congenital type, and the pregnancy was allowed to go to term, the other showed marked valvular disease and a Cæsarian Section was advised.

One case was suffering from urinary infection.

Four cases were seen with a view to Cæsarian Section. One for multiple severe confinements so that she could be sterilized at the same time. Two for contracted pelvis, in one case a trial labour was first attempted but the operation was eventually necessary. One was a second pregnancy after previous Cæsarian Section.

One patient was seen who had had a Cæsarian Section performed in 1935 for Placenta prævia, in this case normal delivery at term was advised, and this occurred without difficulty.

One case was seen during the puerperium because of fever, this proved to be a urinary infection and recovered quickly under treatment.

Five Cæsarian Sections were performed, in every case a living healthy child was delivered and the mother made an uninterrupted recovery.

Mr. Norman White.—During this year I have seen thirteen cases for the Hertfordshire County Council, one of them was seen twice. Seven were cases of puerperal pyrexia, four of these had hæmolytic streptococcal uterine infection, one had severe pyelitis, and two had the uterine cultures planted locally, and I did not hear the result. Intra-uterine glycerine was given to four patients. The case of pyelitis was successfully treated with mandelic acid.

I operated on one case of puerperal appendicitis, proved by section of the appendix removed at operation. In a case of secondary post-partum hæmorrhage due to a retained placenta I explored the uterus and gave a blood transfusion with satisfactory result.

I delivered one patient by craniotomy, for uterine inertia and intrapartum sepsis. I examined one patient with placenta prævia under anæsthesia, ruptured the membranes, and applied Willett's forceps. She was safely delivered. I attempted version in one case of breech presentation in a primigravida, and advised about the subsequent treatment. I saw one case of severe pyelitis of pregnancy, and advised about the treatment.

Massage and Orthopædic Centres.—During the year 1936 the number of defects and morbid conditions dealt with in children under 5 years of age who attended and received treatment at the massage and orthopædic centres in the County was 409. Of this number there were 226 cases of acquired deformity of the lower limb, 101 cases of congenital deformity, and 31 cases of morbid conditions or defects involving muscles and tendons.

Dental Treatment. — The following figures indicate the extent to which treatment was carried out during the year in the case of mothers and in children under 5 years of age ; the figures show a considerable increase compared with last year :—

Mothers and children inspected by the Dentists	801
Found to require treatment	794
Actually treated	763
Attendances made for treatment	1,098
Fillings	21
Extractions	2,614
Administrations of general anæsthetic for extractions	765
Other operations	67

All these figures with the exception of fillings show a considerable increase on last year's work.

DR. ORNSTEIN'S REPORT.

The Sessions at the Ante-natal and Child Welfare Centres were identical with those of the previous year. The Barnet Centre was moved to Fieldways in Wellhouse Lane. This would appear to have met with a ready response from the mothers, as a hundred more children attended at this Centre during the year.

The attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics showed an increase of 537 over the previous year. This increase was in part due to the fact that some of the Wellhouse Hospital Ante-natal patients now attend at the Barnet Centre. Expectant mothers are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of regular examination before confinement. At these examinations there are valuable opportunities for instruction in diet and personal hygiene. There were no deaths amongst the expectant mothers who attended the clinics.

The attendances at the Child Welfare Centres were maintained. Amongst those children who attended 11 deaths occurred—7 due to broncho-pneumonia, 1 to meningitis, 1 to marasmus, 1 to congenital deformity, and 1 to diphtheria. This child's mother had been offered prophylactic inoculation on several occasions but had refused each time.

One hundred and twenty-eight children were immunized against diphtheria. This figure was divided amongst the following Clinics : Waltham Cross 56, Barnet 24, Hemel Hempstead 21, Hertford 14, Ware 13.

The figures relating to the Centres are given in the tables.

This report affords a welcome opportunity each year for expressing appreciation to the voluntary workers for their help at all the Centres.

DR. ANDERSON'S REPORT.

The Sessions at the Ante-natal and Child Welfare Centres were identical with those of the previous year. In addition bi-monthly Ante-natal Sessions for expectant mothers to be confined at Oster House were conducted at Wellington Court, Bricket Road, St. Albans.

Excluding the additional numbers supplied by Oster House patients, the number of expectant mothers and the number of their attendances taken collectively show a well-marked increase. Special attention is paid to the nutrition of the expectant mother. It is recommended that each expectant mother, throughout the whole of the period of pregnancy,

GIVING PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE WHO ATTENDED THE CENTRES IN 1936, COMPARED WITH THOSE IN 1935. (Dr. Ornstein's District.)

TABLE 21.

Centre.	No. of times Centre was opened in		No. of children on books in		No. of attendances of children in		Average weekly attendances of children in		No. of deaths of children in		No. of children who had orthopaedic treatment in		No. of children referred to Dental Clinics in		No. of nursing mothers referred to Dental Clinics in	
	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.
Barnet	49	47	484	384	2,786	2,795	57	59	3	2	2	1	19	15	6	—
Hemel Hempstead	50	50	282	290	2,374	2,379	47	48	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Hertford	52	51	312	274	2,080	2,039	40	40	1	6	1	1	17	13	2	2
Waltham Cross	50	50	396	392	3,456	3,240	69	65	2	3	3	—	25	4	3	9
Ware Voluntary Centre	49	47	320	268	1,952	2,418	40	51	1	1	—	—	7	8	5	—
Total	250	245	1,794	1,608	12,648	12,871	51	53	11	12	7	3	68	40	16	11

TABLE 22.

GIVING PARTICULARS OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS WHO ATTENDED THE ANTE-NATAL CLINICS IN 1936,
COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1935. (Dr. Ornstein's District.)

Ante-Natal Clinic.	No. of times Clinic opened in		No. of expectant mothers books in		No. of consultations of these with Medical Officer in		Average number of consultations of expectant mothers in		No. of deaths amongst expectant mothers in		No. of expectant mothers referred to Dental Clinics in		No. of post-natal consultations in		Normal expectant mothers in 1936.		Expectant mothers with abnormal conditions dependent on pregnancy in 1936.		Expectant mothers with abnormal conditions not dependent on pregnancy in 1936.		Percentage of normal confinements in	
	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	Normal confinement.	Abnormal confinement.	Normal confinement.	Abnormal confinement.	Normal confinement.	Abnormal confinement.	1936.	1935.
Barnet.	24	22	166	76	561	236	23	11	—	—	13	4	5	1	76	9	8	5	—	—	86	95
Berkhampstead	22	22	64	56	207	218	9	10	—	—	1	—	6	11	44	5	—	5	1	—	80	82
East and New Barnet.	23	24	120	111	422	388	18	16	—	—	15	8	36	22	78	11	1	1	1	1	86	93
Hemel Hempstead	45	46	47	60	223	250	5	5	—	—	1	—	18	22	36	9	—	—	—	—	80	89
Hertford.	49	49	94	80	346	310	7	6	—	—	16	10	1	3	64	9	—	—	1	1	87	85
Tring	21	23	50	51	180	169	9	7	—	—	—	—	9	9	30	4	—	1	—	—	86	61
Waltham Cross	26	24	100	64	378	230	15	10	—	—	11	8	2	12	56	11	5	2	2	—	83	94
Ware Voluntary Centre.	21	22	99	98	277	256	13	12	—	—	10	12	2	5	73	6	1	1	2	—	92	79
Total.	231	232	740	602	2,594	2,057	11	9	—	—	67	42	79	85	457	64	15	15	5	3	85	86

should include in her diet at least one pint of milk, one egg and a liberal supply of fresh vegetables, salad and fruit ; once or twice a week, sea fish and liver, and during the later months of pregnancy cod-liver oil or a corresponding amount of some other preparation containing the vitamins present in cod-liver oil. Mothers are advised to continue this diet during the period of lactation. Wherever anæmia is present or where the iron content of the diet is restricted, adequate iron medication is given and continued where necessary during the period of lactation, thus preventing the occurrence of nutritional anæmia in the breast-fed infant. The number of mothers who attended the Post-natal Clinic at the Maples Maternity Home, Hitchin, shows a satisfactory increase and women are gradually becoming educated to the necessity of routine post-natal examination as a means of preventing much of the ill-health and chronic invalidism which sometimes follows child-bearing. Four maternal deaths occurred during the year. Three of these were directly due to morbid conditions not dependent on pregnancy, two to rheumatic heart disease and the third to a pre-existing chronic nephritis which was aggravated by the pregnant state. The fourth was the result of unavoidable hæmorrhage in the later months of pregnancy. In none of these cases could death have been prevented by routine ante-natal care.

The standard of health of the children attending the Welfare Centres was uniformly good. The total number of children and the total number of attendances show only a slight variation from the totals for the previous year. The number of children referred for dental treatment shows a well-marked increase. Fourteen deaths occurred during the year, the majority of which were due to broncho-pneumonia, a few to prematurity and to congenital defects incompatible with post-natal life, and two to meningitis. The routine medical inspection of all infants and children is encouraged not as a policy of mere negation, such as the prevention of ill-health, but with the object of keeping the healthy child healthy. Children found to be suffering from defects are thus referred to the appropriate quarter for treatment while such conditions are in their early and tractable stages.

One hundred and twenty-eight children were immunized against diphtheria. This figure was divided amongst the following Centres as follows : Bishop's Stortford, 6 ; Hatfield, 11 ; Hitchin, 30 ; Letchworth, 5 ; St. Albans, 59 ; Stevenage, 17.

Many thanks are due to those ladies who, acting as voluntary workers at the Child Welfare Centres, render such valued assistance.

The figures relating to the Centres and Clinics are shown in the tables on pages 47 and 48 and pages 50 to 52.

TABLE 23

PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE WHO ATTENDED THE CENTRES IN 1936,
COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1935. (Dr. Anderson's District.)

Centre.	No. of times Centre opened in		No. of children on books in		No. of attendances of children in		Average attendance of children per clinic in		No. of deaths of children in		No. of children who had Orthopædic treatment in		No. of children referred to Dental Clinics in		No. of Nursing Mothers referred to Dental Clinics in	
	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.
Bishop's Stortford	48	47	175	181	2,608	3,171	54	67	—	—	2	4	8	7	4	4
Hatfield .	48	46	221	174	2,317	1,922	48	42	1	1	2	3	10	9	2	8
Hitchin .	46	48	432	477	3,083	3,191	67	66	4	4	11	6	38	22	4	16
Letchworth	49	48	413	342	3,557	3,511	73	73	—	—	7	4	47	21	9	3
St. Albans .	51	51	705	888	5,126	5,440	100	107	2	2	3	10	56	44	1	7
Stevenage .	50	50	219	192	1,708	1,503	34	30	—	—	3	2	30	19	8	12
Total.	292	290	2,165	2,254	18,399	18,738	63	65	14	7	28	29	189	122	28	50

TABLE 24

PARTICULARS OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS WHO ATTENDED THE ANTE-NATAL CLINICS IN 1936, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1935. (Dr. Anderson's District.)

Ante-Natal Clinic	No. of times Clinic opened in		No. of expectant mothers on books in		No. of consultations these with Medical Officer in		Average number of consultations of expectant mothers in		No. of expectant mothers referred to Dental Clinic in		No. of post-natal consultations in		Normal expectant mothers in 1936		Expectant mothers with abnormal conditions dependent on pregnancy in 1936		Expectant mothers with abnormal conditions not dependent on pregnancy in 1936		Percentage of normal confinements in	
	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	Normal Confinement.	Abnorm'l Confinement.	Normal Confinement.	Abnorm'l Confinement.	Normal Confinement.	Abnorm'l Confinement.	1936.	1935.
Bishop's Stortford	23	22	46	47	135	129	6	6	14	14	3	4	30	2	1	—	—	—	91	90
Hatfield . . .	21	22	49	35	165	122	8	6	10	7	9	12	37	1	3	1	3	1	93	86
Hitchin . . .	69	62	290	268	1220	1069	18	17	32	40	52	43	170	18	9	5	4	10	85	84
Letchworth . .	23	23	38	29	93	119	4	5	8	2	4	9	25	3	—	—	—	1	86	100
St. Albans (District)	23	23	119	128	409	341	18	15	20	15	3	6	72	8	5	6	—	3	82	84
St. Albans (Oster House) . . .	20	—	122	—	332	—	17	—	9	—	—	—	78	6	7	3	7	3	83	—
Stevenage . . .	23	23	44	44	170	127	7	6	7	15	4	6	35	2	1	—	1	1	92	85
Total.	202	175	708	551	2,524	1,907	12	11	100	93	75	80	447	40	26	15	15	20	87	86

TABLE 25.

GIVING PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD WHO ATTENDED THE CENTRES IN 1936, COMPARED WITH THOSE IN 1935. (Dr. Sparrow's District.)

Centre.	No. of times the Centre was open in		No. of children on the books in		No. of attendances of children in		Average weekly attendance of children in		No. of deaths of children in		No. of children who had Orthopædic treatment in 1936.	No. of children referred to Dental Clinic in 1936.	No. of Nursing Mothers referred to the Dental Clinics in 1936.	No. of Defects and Ailments in	
	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.				1936.	1935.
Berkhampstead .	45	41	317	258	2,478	2,085	55½	50½	3	4	—	33	—	17 defects in 35 patients	12 defects in 33 patients.
Tring . . .	45	47	172	172	2,280	1,856	50½	40	—	—	—	3	16	14 among 27 patients	12 among 18 patients.
Total . . .	90	88	489	430	4,758	3,941	53	46	3	6	—	36	16		

HEALTH VISITORS, NURSES, AND MIDWIVES.

The work of the health visitors, nurses, and midwives has been continued in the same conscientious and assiduous manner as has been carried out in the past. Each year brings with it increased duties and responsibilities for the district nurse and one cannot speak too highly of the manner in which these duties are carried out. From time to time instances are brought to my notice of the devotion of the district nurse to her duty and of the extent to which she expends herself in doing all that is humanly possible when dealing with critical cases.

In the following report Miss Harrington, the County Health Visitor, Inspector of Midwives, and County Superintendent of Nurses, gives full particulars of the work of the health visitors, nurses, and midwives during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF MIDWIVES AND INSPECTOR OF HEALTH VISITORS FOR THE YEAR 1936.

During the year 1936 the Health Visiting work has been carried out by the 120 Health Visitors, including three whole-time County Council nurses.

4,592 of the 5,678 babies born alive during 1935 (excluding Watford Urban District) have been visited by the Health Visitors, a percentage of 80·9 per cent.

Of the babies visited 83 died before reaching the age of one year, showing a mortality of 18·1 per 1,000; 886 babies left the County before completing their first year. In all cases where the address could be obtained, it was forwarded to the local Health Authority.

From the Health Visitors' returns it is shown that 2,436 or 53·0 per cent of the infants were breast-fed; 1,498 or 32·6 per cent were partly breast-fed; and 571 or 12·4 per cent were bottle-fed; 972 or 21·2 per cent used dummies; 1,285 or 28·0 per cent were vaccinated; 3,540 or 77·1 per cent were up to the average weight.

The work of the Health Visitors is shown in Table 26.

STATEMENT OF WORK AS INSPECTOR OF MIDWIVES AND HEALTH
VISITORS FOR THE YEAR 1936.

Inspection of Midwives and Special Visits	1,589
Visits to Health Visitors, Nurses, and Doctors	992
Attendances at Committee Meetings	115
Attendances at County Council and Voluntary Infant Welfare Centres and Schools	242
Letters, Circulars, etc., under the Midwifery Act and Notifica- tion of Births Act	13,137

STATISTICS OF MIDWIVES PRACTISING IN THE COUNTY.

There were 262 trained midwives practising in the County on the 1st January, 1937. In addition there were 63 temporary midwives and 38 who have left or retired, making a total of 363 practising in 1936.

Of those in practice on the 1st January, 1937, 49 are in private practice and 140 work for Nursing Associations. Two are employed by the County Council and 71 in Institutions.

In 1936 the total number of births was 6,665, excluding stillbirths. The midwives attended 6,011 cases. Of these, 3,892 were domiciliary confinements; 1,629 were with a doctor engaged and included 49 or 3·0 per cent stillbirths, 2,263 were attended by midwives alone and included 43 or 1·9 per cent stillbirths.

Of the 6,011 cases attended by midwives, 2,119 were in Institutions. These included 95 or 4·5 per cent stillbirths.

The number of infants who died before the tenth day in domiciliary cases was 39 in midwives' cases born alive, being a mortality of 17·6 per 1,000. Of the 39 infants who died before the tenth day, 21 were premature. In addition to these cases, the midwives attended 143 abortions.

1,918 expectant mothers have attended ante-natal clinics. The number of ante-natal visits paid by the midwives was 22,283.

Maternity Mortality.—Out of the 2,263 domiciliary midwifery cases, there was one maternal death, being a mortality of 0·4 per 1,000.

Medical Aid and any other Notifications Received.—The number of medical aid notices was 987 or 27·6 per cent.

Infant Life Protection.—The following figures give particulars of the number of persons registered under the Children

TABLE 26.

TABLE OF HEALTH VISITORS' WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907-1915.

District and Health Visitors.	Parishes in each District.	Population Covered.	No. of New Homes Visited.	No. of Babies under Supervision, 31st Dec., 1936.	Health Visits to Mothers and Babies.	Health Visitors' Attendances at Maternity Centre.	No. of Cases as Midwife and Maternity Nurse and Visits.	No. of Children aged 1-5 under Supervision 31st Dec. 1936.	Visits to These.
No. 1 : Miss Milner .	Barnet, Arkley, Totteridge .	19,650	211	885	933	45		3110	1,208
No. 2 : Miss Shore .	Tring Urban District .	4,440	46	289	682	45	cases 38 visits 669	942	851
No. 3 : Miss Parry .	Letchworth and Willian .	15,350	200	918	1,989	52		2585	1,899
Nurses working under the County Nursing Association.		327,337	4,088	5,084	40,224	2,616		14,225	48,495
	Total	366,777	4,545	7,176	43,828	2,758		20,862	52,453

TABLE 27.

MIDWIVES AND THEIR WORK FOR THE YEAR 1936.

DISTRICT.	POPULATION.	TOTAL BIRTHS.		BIRTHS ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES.		INFANTS' DEATHS.			NOTIFICATIONS.				MATERNAL DEATHS FOR WHOLE COUNTY. MIDWIVES.	NUMBER OF MIDWIVES.				
		Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Midwife.	With Doctor.	Under one Year.	Rate per 1,000.	Midwives' cases under Ten Days.	Medical Aid.		Stillborn.			Private.	Nursing Associations.	County Council.	Institutions.	Total.
									Mother.	Child.	With Doctor.	Midwife.						
Urban.																		
1. Baldock	3,675	68	1	29	36	2	28·9	...	4	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
2. Barnet	19,650	262	19	164	48	12	42·7	...	19	4	5	...	...	2	1	...	9	12
3. Berkhamsted	10,080	113	3	83	47	10	86·2	4	11	5	3	3	...	1	3	...	1	5
4. Bp's. Stortford	10,580	140	8	68	67	4	27·0	...	10	3	3	1	...	...	4	...	7	11
5. Bushey	12,490	138	4	59	49	1	7·0	...	20	...	4	...	...	3	2	...	...	5
6. Cheshunt	16,090	231	7	94	128	10	42·0	1 (P)	10	1	8	4	...	5	5	...	...	10
7. Chorleywood...	3,485	33	...	9	11	1	30·3	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
8. E. Barnet Valley	28,280	429	14	220	96	14	31·6	1 (P)	38	12	10	2	...	4	5	...	3	12
9. Harpenden	10,970	122	6	78	61	7	54·6	1	26	3	...	1	...	1	5	...	1	7
10. H. Hempstead	18,050	282	12	220	75	12	40·8	2 (1P)	43	11	9	2	...	1	3	...	6	10
11. Hertford	13,030	174	10	109	54	6	32·6	...	34	8	1	1	...	...	6	...	4	10
12. Hitchin	16,100	228	10	96	112	13	54·6	...	53	7	7	1	...	3	3	1	12	19
13. Hoddesdon	11,670	171	8	117	60	10	55·8	2 (2P)	20	6	5	...	...	...	5	...	1	6
14. Letchworth	15,350	212	4	70	139	7	32·4	...	5	...	4	2	...	5	...	...	...	5
15. Rickmansworth	15,300	241	8	136	73	4	16·0	...	16	1	6	...	...	1	4	...	...	5
16. Royston	3,810	42	...	21	21	...	...	...	3	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	3
17. St. Albans	35,370	482	33	237	210	23	44·6	3 (2P)	40	5	13	5	...	3	6	...	8	17
18. Sawbridgeworth	2,920	26	1	23	15	1	37·0	...	7	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
19. Stevenage	5,730	67	1	39	42	5	73·5	1	7	2	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
20. Tring	4,440	43	2	22	26	1	22·2	...	3	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
21. Ware	7,400	119	4	85	41	5	40·6	2 (1P)	24	3	...	1	...	...	3	...	4	7
22. Watford	64,110	906	48	638	278	37	38·7	9 (5P)	280	29	12	15	1	8	11	...	11	30
23. Welwyn G'n C.	10,720	217	6	103	101	14	6·7	3 (1P)	18	3	2	...	...	...	5	...	2	7
Total for U.D's. ...	339,300	4,746	209	2,720	1,790	199	40·1	30 (14P)	692	107	101	39	1	39	79	2	70	190
Rural.																		
1. Barnet	8,390	93	2	50	37	4	42·	...	9	1	6	...	...	...	3	...	...	33
2. Berkhamsted	4,196	72	4	31	27	1	13·1	...	4	2	2	...	...	1	4	...	...	5
3. Braughing	8,938	109	5	54	62	2	17·5	1 (P)	14	1	5	...	...	3	5	...	...	8
4. Hatfield	14,640	239	8	80	105	4	16·1	...	10	2	8	1	...	...	7	...	...	7
5. H. Hempstead	8,515	119	6	89	54	1	8·0	...	10	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
6. Hertford...	6,907	84	3	55	32	6	68·9	1 (P)	7	1	3	1	...	1	5	...	...	6
7. Hitchin...	18,900	236	10	131	95	13	52·8	6 (5P)	30	9	5	3	...	3	11	...	1	15
8. St. Albans	19,300	285	8	150	87	13	44·3	...	33	6	2	1	...	1	6	...	...	7
9. Ware	9,541	121	5	66	34	4	31·7	...	18	1	1	...	...	1	6	...	...	7
10. Watford	17,510	242	4	132	99	2	8·1	1	14	7	3	4	...	...	7	...	...	7
11. Welwyn	4,013	54	1	12	19	2	36·3	...	6	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Total for R.D's. ...	120,850	1,654	56	850	651	52	30·4	9 (7P)	155	33	37	10	...	10	61	...	1	72
Total for U.D's. ...	339,300	4,746	209	2,720	1,790	199	40·1	30 (14P)	692	107	101	39	1	39	79	2	70	190
Total for County	460,150	6,400	265	3,570	2,441	251	37·6	39 (21P)	847	140	138	40	1	49	140	2	71	262
		6,665		6,011					987		187							

In some of these districts the number of births notified is in excess of those given in the Registrars' figures.

and Young Persons Acts for the reception of children under the age of nine :—

Number of Children in care of Foster Mothers 1st January, 1936	333
Number of Children placed under Foster Mothers during year 1936	327
Number of Children removed from care of Foster Mothers during 1936	376
Number of Children in care of Foster Mothers 31st December, 1936	284
Number of new Foster Mothers registered during year 1936	63
Number of Foster Mothers having children under their care on 31st December, 1936	188
Number of Foster Mothers not found to be suitable for approval during 1936	<i>nil</i>
Number of Certificates of Approval cancelled during 1936	<i>nil</i>

TABLE 28.

BIRTHS NOTIFIED UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT 1907
FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1936.

District.	BIRTHS.		CASES ATTENDED		STILLBORN		Premature.	INFANTS VISITED BY HEALTH VISITORS			Death rate per 1,000 of the infants under one year for the county excluding Watford.	No. of Health Visitors.
	Notified.	Returned by Registrar.	By Doctor:	By Midwife.	Doctors' Cases.	Midwives' Cases.		Visited.	Died under 1 year.	Death rate per 1,000 visited.		
Urban.												
1. Baldock	65	2	38	29	2	2	4	61	—	—	—	2
2. Barnet	497	1	379	119	19	1	35	175	3	17·1	34·0	1
3. Berkhamsted	90	3	18	75	1	2	7	85	1	11·8	28·3	3
4. Bishops Stortford	168	3	110	61	7	2	12	106	2	18·9	28·9	4
5. Bushey	122	11	72	61	2	1	7	83	3	36·1	84·5	2
6. Cheshunt	247	2	182	67	7	—	11	228	9	39·5	48·3	4
7. Chorleywood	17	1	14	4	—	—	1	13	—	—	47·6	1
8. East Barnet Valley	379	5	213	171	10	—	18	341	2	5·9	27·6	5
9. Harpenden	124	3	55	72	1	2	3	92	1	10·9	16·1	3
10. Hemel Hempstead	267	5	69	203	6	1	15	254	6	23·6	37·7	3
11. Hertford	167	3	110	60	5	1	11	148	3	20·3	72·4	4
12. Hitchin	221	9	108	122	3	2	13	184	2	10·9	39·6	3
13. Hoddesdon	163	—	83	80	7	2	17	138	3	21·7	47·3	5
14. Letchworth	187	2	118	71	3	2	8	152	—	—	16·6	2
15. Rickmansworth	222	20	122	120	4	2	6	174	4	23·0	26·7	4
16. Royston	40	—	25	15	—	—	1	28	—	—	—	1
17. St. Albans	501	4	266	239	8	4	30	385	9	23·4	31·9	3
18. Sawbridgeworth	34	1	21	14	1	—	1	32	1	31·3	32·2	2
19. Stevenage	66	—	33	33	—	—	4	51	1	19·6	—	2
20. Tring	67	—	40	27	3	1	7	58	1	17·2	37·5	1
21. Ware	109	—	39	70	3	1	2	103	2	19·4	18·3	3
22. Welwyn Garden City	211	2	123	90	3	3	13	182	4	22·0	35·1	1
Total for Urban Districts	3,964	77	2,238	1,803	95	29	226	3,073	57	18·5	34·7	59
Rural.												
1. Barnet	117	—	66	51	6	—	8	92	—	—	45·0	3
2. Berkhamsted	91	3	50	44	5	—	6	84	1	11·9	31·2	4
3. Braughing	113	—	44	69	1	1	10	95	2	21·1	40·9	5
4. Hatfield	187	10	129	68	2	—	8	182	2	11·0	34·8	7
5. Hemel Hempstead	173	4	109	68	6	1	9	144	3	20·8	66·6	6
6. Hertford	91	—	57	34	2	—	3	84	4	47·6	42·1	5
7. Hitchin	275	12	159	128	7	1	15	256	6	23·4	51·1	11
8. St. Albans	266	—	131	135	9	1	10	238	3	12·6	10·8	6
9. Ware	127	2	72	57	3	—	9	116	1	8·6	47·2	6
10. Watford	266	16	150	132	5	2	11	179	4	22·3	47·4	7
11. Welwyn	61	1	28	34	1	1	6	49	—	—	—	1
Total for Rural Districts	1,767	48	995	820	47	7	95	1,519	26	17·1	38·3	61
Total for Urban Districts	3,964	77	2,238	1,803	95	29	226	3,073	57	18·5	34·7	59
Total for County	5,731	125	3,233	2,623	142	36	321	4,592	83	18·1	35·0	120

As regards the work carried out by the Infant Protection Visitors, the following information has been given me by Miss Harrington for 1936 :—

During the year ended 31st December, 1936, 407 children have been under supervision. The total number of visits paid to these children by the nurses employed by the District Nursing Associations and the County Council health visitors was 2,949 ; 98 forms giving particulars of the home conditions of foster mothers have been forwarded to the County Medical Officer.

Of the 2,949 visits, 2,723 have been paid by nurses employed by District Nursing Associations, and of the 98 forms giving particulars of home conditions, 89 have been filled in by these nurses.

Reports are received from the nurses who act as visitors as to home conditions and as to the health and welfare of the children and the degree of care and supervision exercised. In difficult cases where further investigation is necessary the services of the Inspectors of the N.S.P.C.C. are employed and have proved of great assistance in connection with this work.

SANITARY SERVICES AND HOUSING IN THE COUNTY.

In this section particulars are given of the present position of the sanitary services in the various districts of the county. Brief particulars are also given of the developments during 1936 in regard to housing. From the summary of the services in each district given below information will be obtained as to the increased provision of piped water supplies in rural districts under the scheme of the County Council. A survey with a view to providing for the extension of schemes of sewers and sewage disposal works is being made by Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons.

Urban Districts.

BALDOCK.

Water Supply	.	Adequate supply from First Garden City, Ltd., Pumping Station for practically whole district ; few wells.
Sewage Disposal	.	Public system for whole district ; disposal works near Icknield Way. Sewage enters large tank after screening and is pumped into a reservoir twice daily, and then run on to land under cultivation and treated by systematic broad irrigation.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Once weekly in open horse-drawn conveyance. Existing dump has been overhauled and disposal is now carried out on the controlled system.
Infectious Diseases	.	Cases sent by arrangement to North Herts Isolation Hospital ; swabs examined at County's Public Health laboratories ; antitoxin supplied when required ; no steam disinfectant provided ; clothing and houses disinfected with paraformaldehyde and formalin and liquid disinfectants.

Housing	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	.	<i>nil</i>
		Number of houses in process of erection	.	15
		Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	.	13

BARNET.

Water Supply	.	Public supply for the whole district from the Barnet and District Gas and Water Co., from wells sunk into the chalk; the supply is adequate.		
Sewage Disposal	.	Separate system for the whole district except in older portions of district, where combined system obtains. Certain outlying properties are drained to cesspools; part of Totteridge is drained into Finchley sewer. Sewage Farm is situated in Mays Lane, and is 56 acres in extent; method of disposal: three rotary filters, detritus and sedimentation tanks, and land irrigation; pumping is necessary for two sewers; some extension of the system is contemplated.		
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Weekly collection for whole district in covered mechanical conveyances; disposal by controlled tipping.		
Infectious Diseases	.	Cases of infectious diseases removed to Barnet Joint Isolation Hospital; swabs examined by arrangement with Clinical Research Association; supplies of antitoxin kept for local practitioners. A steam disinfecter is available; houses are fumigated with formaldehyde.		

Housing	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	.	<i>nil</i>
		Number of houses in process of erection	.	<i>nil</i>
		Number of houses overcrowded, as defined by Housing Act, 1935	.	37

BERKHAMPTSTEAD.

Water Supply	.	Public supply for practically the whole district from the Berkhamstead Water Company, which also supplies adjoining districts; supply is adequate; there are a few wells.		
Sewage Disposal	.	Conservancy system for whole district; sewage disposal works at Broadway, Berkhamstead, consist of septic tanks and rotary percolating filters, effluent discharged to Grand Union Canal.		
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Weekly collection for whole district in covered carts with automatic covers. Controlled system of disposal.		
Infectious Diseases		Cases admitted to Aldbury Hospital; swabs sent to Clinical Research Association or Hill End laboratory; obtainable from Medical Officer of Health, Market Square, Hemel Hempstead; antitoxin supplied by Council through Sanitary Inspector; Immunization Scheme adopted; steam disinfecter available; disinfection carried out by sanitary staff.		
Housing	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	.	20
		Number of Houses in process of erection	.	<i>nil</i>
		Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	.	37

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

Water Supply	.	Adequate supply from deep wells, which serves whole district ; a few wells on the outskirts.	
Sewage Disposal	.	Public system for greater part of district ; there are about 20 cesspools and a few pail closets in the outskirts. Sewage gravitates to tanks, is screened and pumped on to high level, and is dealt with by broad land irrigation ; effluent to River Stort. Disposal works outside district in Essex.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Weekly in covered mechanical and horse-drawn conveyances ; partly controlled.	
Infectious Diseases	.	Cases admitted to East Herts Isolation Hospital ; swabs sent to laboratory at Hill End Mental Hospital ; antitoxin kept at Sanitary Inspector's Office ; steam disinfecter at Isolation Hospital ; houses disinfected with formaldehyde.	
Housing	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	33
		Number of houses in process of erection	32
		Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	25

BUSHEY.

Water Supply	.	Adequate supply for whole district from Colne Valley Water Co.	
Sewage Disposal	.	Public system for whole district with the exception of the northern part and a few small areas. Disposal works have recently been extended, and are now capable of dealing with sewage from population of 17,000 ; anærobic and ærobic methods of treatment are adopted ; percolating filters and final filtration through sand.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance. Disposal by controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases	.	Cases admitted to Watford Joint Hospital, which serves district ; swabs sent to P.M. Hospital Laboratory, Watford ; Diphtheria Immunization Scheme ; antitoxin kept at Council Offices ; steam disinfecter at Isolation Hospital ; houses disinfected by Sanitary Inspector.	
Housing	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	<i>nil</i>
		Number of houses in process of erection	30
		Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	21

CHESHUNT.

Water Supply	.	Public supply for practically whole district from Metropolitan Water Board, private wells in a few country houses.	
Sewage Disposal	.	Public system for whole district except some country houses. Sewage disposal works on Cheshunt Marsh in Parish of Enfield, consists of septic tanks, revolving sprinklers, humus tanks, and filtration over several acres of ground.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance ; disposal partly controlled.	

Infectious Diseases .	Cases removed to Cheshunt Isolation Hospital ; examination of swabs arranged by M.O.H. Antitoxin kept at U.D.C. Offices and house of M.O.H. No local disinfectant available, but there are arrangements for disinfection with Enfield ; house disinfection by formalin lamps.
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 . <i>nil</i> Number of houses in process of erection . <i>nil</i> Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 64
CHORLEYWOOD.	
Water Supply .	Adequate supply for practically the whole district from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ; three private wells.
Sewage disposal .	Public system for greater part of district. Few cesspools. Disposal works at Maple Cross consist of detritus and screening chamber, two sedimentation tanks, three primary and secondary filters, and two humus tanks ; effluent to tributary of River Colne.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Collection weekly in covered mechanical conveyance. Refuse disposed of by method of controlled tipping.
Infectious Diseases .	Cases admitted to Joint Hospital serving district, swabs sent to Clinical Research Association. Antitoxin kept by Council. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital ; houses disinfected by Sanitary Inspector.
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 . <i>nil</i> Number of houses in process of erection . <i>nil</i> Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 3
EAST BARNET.	
Water Supply .	Adequate supply from the Barnet District Gas and Water Co. from wells and borings ; whole district served.
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole of district except for a very small number of large houses in isolated positions. Disposal works situated at Brunswick Park Road at junction with Osidge Lane, sewage conveyed by five main outfall sewers ; the sewage from two of these passes through pyramidal settlement tanks and then on to the land ; the sewage from the remaining three sewers passes direct on to the land ; the site is under drained, all drains leading to settling tanks which feed a series of percolating filters. The effluent is discharged into Pymmes Brook. A contract for the complete reconstruction of the sewage disposal works at an estimated cost of £75,000 has been placed and the works are now well advanced.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	A weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse is made over the whole of this district. Producers of offal, and offensive trades, receive three collections a week.

In October, 1934, three new refuse collecting vehicles were brought into operation to replace the old system of tractor and trailers, and in 1936 a fourth vehicle was purchased. The vehicles are of 15 cubic yards capacity, rear loading and fitted with moving floors. Since the introduction of these vehicles a very considerable improvement has been effected in the method and cleanliness of the collection.

The method of disposal is controlled tipping at Oak Hill Park, East Barnet. Since the inception of the scheme about 4,400 tons of refuse per annum have been disposed of without a complaint of any description. No vermin or flies have been found since the controlled tip was begun in April, 1933.

Infectious Diseases .	Cases to Barnet Joint Isolation Hospital ; swabs sent for examination to Clinical Research Association ; supplies of antitoxin kept by Council. Steam disinfectant available at Isolation Hospital. Rooms and contents sprayed with formalin.
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 { 22 houses 8 flats Number of houses in process of erection <i>nil</i> Number of houses overcrowded, as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . . 46

HARPENDEN.

Water Supply .	Adequate supply from Harpenden Water Co. from deep wells in Lea Valley for almost whole district ; a few house wells are still in existence. Company also supplies Wheathampstead.
Sewage Disposal .	Public system except for outlying farms and houses. Disposal works on eastern boundary of district. Slate beds, tanks, and percolating filters.
Refuse Collection and Disposal	Weekly collection in covered conveyances ; fully controlled tipping in accordance with Ministry of Health's Regulations.
Infectious Diseases .	Cases to Sisters Hospital (St. Albans), swabs, etc., sent to laboratory at Hill End Hospital. Antitoxin kept by Council. Disinfectant available at Sisters Hospital, to which clothes are sent. House disinfection by formalin spray and lamps.
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 . . . 20 Number of houses in process of erection . . . <i>nil</i> Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . . 10

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD BOROUGH.

Water Supply .	Adequate supply from two borings for whole district. Corporation water main now extended to Bourne End.
Sewage Disposal .	Public system except for outlying farms and cottages ; disposal works at Bennett's End ; sewage is pumped from Apsley and passes through sedimentation tanks and percolating filters, and is finally treated by broad irrigation.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance ; controlled tipping.

Infectious Diseases .	Cases to Joint Isolation Hospital; swabs sent to laboratory at Hill End Hospital. Anti-toxin supplied from Public Health Department; steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital. Immunization Scheme provided. Houses disinfected by formalin spray and lamps.	
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	16
	Number of houses in process of erection .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . .	59

HERTFORD BOROUGH.

Water Supply .	Adequate supply for whole district from wells in chalk owned by Corporation.	
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole district; disposal works within eastern boundary of borough consist of detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, activated sludge tanks, and sludge digestion.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly, in covered freighter; disposal by controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases .	Cases to East Herts Isolation Hospital; swabs examined at laboratory at Hertford County Hospital. Diphtheria antitoxin at The Castle. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital; houses disinfected with formaldehyde.	
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses in process of erection	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . .	24 (abated 16)

HITCHIN.

Water Supply .	Adequate public supply for whole district; new boring just been made at Temple End; also supplies Ippollitts and Ickleford in Hitchin Rural District. The village of Charlton now has a public water supply by stand-pipe taps for groups of houses except three houses at Temple End.	
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole district except Charlton and few scattered houses; extended within last two years. Disposal works at Grove Road consist of tanks and percolating filters. System also serves few scattered houses outside the Urban District.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance.	
Infectious Diseases .	Cases sent by arrangement with the Joint Isolation Hospital; swabs examined at cost of Council; antitoxin supplied free of cost. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital; house disinfection by spraying disinfectant fluid followed by formaldehyde gas fumigation.	
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	14
	Number of houses in process of erection .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . .	49

HODDESDON.

Water Supply	.	The northern part of the district formerly in the Parish of Great Amwell is served by the Metropolitan Water Board. The remainder of the district is served by the Council's water undertaking from two deep wells in chalk, one at Hoddesdon and one at Broxbourne. Houses in the rural parts of the district obtain supplies from wells and springs.						
Sewage Disposal	.	The northern part of the district is unsewered—cesspools are emptied by the Council. The remainder of the district (except for houses in undeveloped and low-lying parts of the area) is sewerage. Sewage disposal works consisting of detritus, settling tanks, contact beds and percolating filters serve the old urban district area. Sewage from Broxbourne and Wormley is disposed of by broad irrigation at the sewage farms. The Council will shortly be considering a comprehensive scheme for dealing with these areas.						
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Weekly collection from practically the whole of the district by low-loading—dustless type—S.D. freighter. Bulk of refuse disposed of in refuse destructor.						
Infectious Diseases	.	Cases to East Herts Isolation Hospital, where clothing is disinfected; swabs sent to Hertford County Hospital. Diphtheria antitoxin kept at Council Offices. Formalin disinfection of houses.						
Housing	.	<table><tr><td>Number of houses erected during 1936</td><td>78</td></tr><tr><td>Number of houses in process of erection</td><td><i>nil</i></td></tr><tr><td>Number of houses overcrowded, as defined by Housing Act, 1935.</td><td>45</td></tr></table> (abated 14)	Number of houses erected during 1936	78	Number of houses in process of erection	<i>nil</i>	Number of houses overcrowded, as defined by Housing Act, 1935.	45
Number of houses erected during 1936	78							
Number of houses in process of erection	<i>nil</i>							
Number of houses overcrowded, as defined by Housing Act, 1935.	45							

LEITCHWORTH.

Water Supply	.	Adequate supply for whole district from pumping stations at Baldock Road and Willian Road, reservoir at Weston Hill; also supplies part of Hitchin Rural District and Baldock Urban.
Sewage Disposal	.	Whole district served except for few houses and farms in isolated positions; separate systems for sewage and surface water; sewage to sewage works and surface water empties into Pix Brook. Disposal works just beyond north-western boundary in Biggleswade R.D.C., consist of settling tanks, with primary and secondary filtration; effluent discharged into Pix Brook.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		House refuse weekly, trade refuse daily in some instances; covered freighters; disposal by controlled tipping.
Infectious Diseases	.	Cases admitted to Hospital of North Herts Joint Board; swabs sent to Thresh and Beale, London; antitoxin kept at Isolation Hospital. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital; disinfection of houses carried out by Sanitary Inspector.

Housing	.	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	<i>nil</i>
			(other houses 166)	
			Number of houses in process of erection	26
			Number of houses overcrowded, as defined by Housing Act, 1935.	73 (abated 51)

RICKMANSWORTH.

Water Supply	.		Adequate supply for practically whole district from Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co. and the Colne Valley Water Co. A few isolated houses supplied by wells.	
Sewage Disposal	.		Public scheme for the whole district, with the exception of the parish of West Hyde, the new estates at Croxley Green, and isolated houses. The sewage from the houses on the new estates at Croxley Green is carried by combined drains to private outfalls. The sewage from the public sewers gravitates to the pumping stations and is pumped to the sewage farm, where it is treated by broad irrigation. The sewerage of Heronsgate was completed at the end of September, 1936. The proposal to provide a main sewer to serve a large area of the Colne Valley is under consideration.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.			Weekly in covered mechanical vehicles, the whole being done by direct labour. The parish of West Hyde previously under contract was included in the direct labour scheme on the 1st April, 1936. Refuse disposed of by controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases	.		Cases to Watford Joint Isolation Hospital; swabs sent to Peace Memorial Hospital Laboratory, Watford; antitoxin kept at Council Offices and Police Station. Infected clothing sent for disinfection to Isolation Hospital; house disinfection carried out by Sanitary Inspector.	
Housing	.	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	<i>nil</i>
			Number of houses in process of erection	<i>nil</i>
			Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	71 (since reduced)

ROYSTON.

Water Supply	.	.	Adequate public supply for whole district.	
Sewage Disposal	.	.	Public system for whole district; a few cesspools and earth-closets on outskirts.	
Scavenging	.	.	Weekly collection in whole district.	
Infectious Diseases	.	.	Cases to North Herts Joint Hospital at Letchworth; swabs and antitoxin paid for if necessary.	
Housing	.	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	46
			Number of houses in process of erection	<i>nil</i>
			Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	10

ST. ALBANS CITY.

Water Supply	.	.	Adequate supply for whole district from St. Albans Water Works Co.; parts of surrounding districts also supplied.	
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Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole district, except the added areas which are chiefly served by cesspools; schemes for these areas are in course of preparation; sewage disposal works at Park Street consist of septic tanks with sprinklers and primary and secondary filtration; some extension of the system is contemplated.
Refuse Collection and Disposal	Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance, daily in shopping area. Pulverizing and salvage plant; pulverized refuse sold; tins baled and sold.
Infectious Diseases .	Cases admitted to St. Albans Isolation Hospital; swabs sent to Clinical Research Association and Hill End; antitoxin provided by Council. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital; houses disinfected by formalin lamps. Scheme for immunization against diphtheria inaugurated Midsummer, 1935.
Housing	Number of houses erected during 1936 <i>nil</i> Number of houses in process of erection 381 Number of houses overcrowded, as defined by Housing Act, 1935 60
SAWBRIDGEWORTH.	
Water Supply .	Adequate supply for whole district, with the exception of the outlying hamlet of Spelbrook, from the Herts and Essex Waterworks Co.; shallow wells at Spelbrook.
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole district, with exception of Spellbrook; sewage by gravitation to sewage farm. Disposal works in south-east of district consist of septic tanks and filter beds; effluent to River Stort.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Once weekly collection in covered horse-drawn conveyance; partly controlled tipping.
Infectious Diseases .	Cases admitted to East Herts Isolation Hospital; swabs sent to the County Laboratory at Hill End; antitoxin kept by Sanitary Inspector. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital; house disinfection by Sanitary Inspector.
Housing	Number of houses erected during 1936 19 Number of houses in process of erection <i>nil</i> Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 4
STEVENAGE.	
Water Supply .	Good and adequate supply of drinking water is obtainable from the pumping station at Bromin Green. The pumping-station at Rook's Nest is now used only occasionally.
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole town except few houses on outskirts. Disposal works are to the south of the town, adjoining Great North Road. Consists of filter beds.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly collection in covered conveyances; partly controlled.

Infectious Diseases .	Cases of infectious disease are sent to North Herts Joint Hospital. Swabs, etc., sent to the laboratory at Hill End Hospital. Antitoxin provided in necessitous cases. No steam disinfectors provided. Rooms disinfected by formaldehyde vapour or spray.	
Housing . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses in process of erection .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	9
TRING.		
Water Supply .	Adequate supply from Chiltern Hills Spring Water Co. available for whole district except Bulbourne hamlet, but a few houses are not connected; deep wells and also some shallow wells at Bulbourne. Adjoining district also supplied with Company's water.	
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole district, except outlying hamlets; disposal works on west side of Tring Ford Reservoir. Sewage pumped to high level after having passed through screening and settling tanks, and is treated by broad irrigation; land is under-drained, and effluent runs into a brook running into Tring Ford Reservoir.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly collection in covered horse-drawn conveyance; partly controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases .	Cases to Urban District Isolation Hospital; swabs, etc., sent to Clinical Research Association; antitoxin at office of Sanitary Inspector. Immunization scheme against diphtheria adopted. Steam disinfectors at Isolation Hospital; houses disinfected with formalin lamps.	
Housing . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses in process of erection .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	1
WARE.		
Water Supply .	Adequate supply for whole district from deep wells the property of the Council.	
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for whole district; disposal works at Rye Farm, near Hoddesdon, which consists of 140 acres; sewage pumped from pumping station at Stanstead Abbots to farm, treatment by broad irrigation.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance; disposal by controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases .	Cases admitted to East Herts Isolation Hospital; swabs, etc., are sent to the laboratory at Hill End Hospital. Antitoxin kept at Isolation Hospital. Steam disinfectors at Isolation Hospital to which infected clothing is sent. Houses disinfected by Sanitary Inspector.	
Housing . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	43
	Number of houses in process of erection .	32
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	25

WATFORD BOROUGH.

- Water Supply . Adequate supply for whole district mainly from deep wells owned by Corporation. Oxhey supplied by Colne Valley Water Works Co., and Garston supplied by Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co. Part of Watford Rural supplied.
- Sewage Disposal . Public System for whole district. Disposal works at Holywell Farm, and Cassio Bridge Farm, for system of intermittent downward filtration. Garston is now served with the exception of First and Second Avenues. There are cesspools and pail-closets in the added area of Leavesden.
- Refuse Collection and Disposal. Collection once per week in covered mechanical conveyances; in special cases collection once daily; disposal by destructor.
- Infectious Diseases . Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital; swabs now sent to Peace Memorial Hospital; antitoxin kept at Council Offices. Steam disinfecter at Isolation Hospital; houses disinfected by Sanitary Inspectors with formalin and spraying. Isolation Hospital has been enlarged to 100 beds in accordance with the Provisional Scheme of the County Council. Central heating has been installed and an operating theatre provided.
- Housing
- | | |
|--|-------|
| Number of houses erected during 1936 | . 418 |
| Number of houses in process of erection | . 170 |
| Number of houses found to be overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 | . 152 |

WELWYN GARDEN CITY.

- Water Supply . Adequate supply from boreholes in the middle chalk in the Mimram Valley; whole district served except for few houses which have well supplies. A bulk supply is given to the Rural District of Welwyn. The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Urban District Council.
- Sewage Disposal . Public system for whole district except the village of Hatfield Hyde and about twenty outlying cottages. Disposal works are situate in the Black Fan Valley, and consist of detritus tanks, screening chambers, sedimentation tanks, and filters. Work on proposed extensions will commence shortly.
- Refuse Collection and Disposal. Collection once a week in covered motor vehicles and twice weekly from hotels, restaurants, and hospital. Dry refuse disposed of by strictly controlled tipping. Sec. 64 of "The Welwyn Garden City Act, 1932", provides for all dwelling-houses to be provided with a regulation dustbin.
- Infectious Diseases . Case admitted to the Sisters Hospital, St. Albans. Swabs, etc., sent to the laboratory at Hill End Hospital; Antitoxin kept at Cottage Hospital. No steam disinfecter in district; clothing may be sent to Sisters Hospital. Izal is supplied to infected houses; rooms disinfected with formalin candles and vapour.

Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936	84
	Number of houses in process of erection	{ 110 houses 8 flats
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . .	50

*Rural Districts.***BARNET.**

Water Supply . . .	Adequate supply for greater part of district from Barnet District Gas and Water Co., and Colne Valley Water Co. Middlesex Mental Colony supplied from own wells.	
Sewage Disposal . . .	The developed part of district has public system. There are three disposal works at St. Catherine Bourne, Shenley, Tilehouse Farm, Boreham Wood, and Medburn Farm, Elstree. The two former have sedimentation tanks and percolating filters and humus tanks, and the latter has sedimentation tanks and treatment by broad irrigation. A few houses in Borough of Hendon are served by the system.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal . . .	Weekly collection in all the area by covered conveyance. House refuse disposed of by controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases . . .	Cases of infectious disease to Barnet Joint Isolation Hospital; swabs examined at Clinical Research Association. Antitoxin provided as required. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital. Houses disinfected by formalin lamps or spray.	
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 . . .	50
	Number of houses in process of erection . . .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	36

BERKHAMPSSTEAD.

Water Supply . . .	Considerable part of district served by Great Berkhamstead Waterworks Co., Chiltern Hills Spring Co., and Ashridge Water Co.; supply also obtained from private wells.	
Sewage Disposal . . .	Public system for part of district. Cesspools and earth-closets. Long Marston broad irrigation and Wilstone broad irrigation.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal . . .	Fortnightly collection at Northchurch and Berkhamstead Rural; monthly, two-monthly, and three-monthly at other districts. Covered conveyance for Northchurch and Berkhamstead Rural Parish.	
Infectious Diseases . . .	Cases of infectious disease sent to Aldbury Isolation Hospital. Examination of swabs provided for. Council pays for antitoxin obtained by medical practitioners. Scheme for immunization against diphtheria adopted. No steam disinfectant available; houses disinfected by formalin lamp.	
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 . . .	12
	Number of houses in process of erection . . .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	25

BRAUGHING.

Water Supply	.	Buntingford and Aspenden and Much Hadham have piped supply ; parts of High Wych and Albury have also piped supply. Remainder of parishes supplied by shallow wells. A scheme for the supply of water to the remaining parishes has been sanctioned and the laying of the mains is now proceeding.
Sewage Disposal	.	Buntingford, Much Hadham, and parts of High Wych and Braughing have public sewers. Remainder of parishes—disposal upon gardens and into ditches. A sewage scheme for the village of Cottered is now under construction and will be completed by April next.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Buntingford—weekly collection and destruction by burning. Much Hadham—weekly collection, also collected at Braughing and High Wych. Remaining parishes quarterly by collection of indestructible refuse and dumping into pits when weather conditions allow access to the pits.
Infectious Diseases	.	Cases sent to East Herts Isolation Hospital at Hertford. Swab examined at Hill End. Anti-toxin kept at Sanitary Inspector's Office, Buntingford. Infected clothing disinfected by steam at Isolation Hospital. Houses disinfected by formaldehyde.
Housing	.	Number of houses erected during 1936 . 66 Number of houses in process of erection . 28 Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . . 41

HATFIELD.

Water Supply	.	Public supply for the greater part of the area from the mains of the Barnet District Gas and Water Co., who have recently taken over the supply to the village of Essendon, served previously from water pumped from a borehole at the Old Mill. The rural areas are served by springs and wells privately owned. Water to be taken to Lemsford and Stanborough.
Sewage Disposal	.	Public system of sewers for portions of the district ; elsewhere cesspools and pail closets. Disposal works at : Mill Green, Hatfield, Newgate Street Village, Welham Green, and Cuffley, consisting of settling tanks, bacteria beds, and humus tanks ; and at Littleheath, settling tanks, filter beds, and land treatment. Little Heath works now used as storm overflow only. Welham Green works completed, having double filtration and chlorination. Contracts for the drainage of the following areas are in course of preparation : Northaw and Cuffley, Nast Hyde, and Stanborough ; also for the enlargement of the existing sewage disposal works at Hatfield.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.		Weekly collection generally ; twice weekly in some parts of Hatfield Town ; covered conveyances always used ; service being extended ; disposal by controlled tipping.

Infectious Diseases .	Cases sent by arrangement to East Herts Isolation Hospital; examination of swabs paid for in necessitous cases; antitoxin supplied where required; no steam disinfection; rooms and clothing are disinfected with formalin.	
Housing . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	83
	Number of houses in process of erection .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	51
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.		
Water Supply .	A considerable part of the district has a public supply from various sources, all from the chalk. Outlying portions have private wells and filtered rain-water.	
Sewage Disposal .	Water carriage system for portions of the district cesspools, and earth-closets. Disposal works at King's Langley and Markyate by double or single filtration and percolating filters and at Flamstead and Flaunden treatment by discharging on to land.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly or fortnightly collection for most of district by mechanical and horse conveyances; disposal by controlled and partly controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases .	Cases of infectious disease to Hemel Hempstead Isolation Hospital; swabs to Clinical Research Association; antitoxin kept at office of Sanitary Inspector; Immunization Scheme now adopted; disinfectant at Isolation Hospital used when required; house disinfection by sanitary staff.	
Housing . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	10
	Number of houses in process of erection .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	20
HERTFORD.		
Water Supply .	Public supply for practically the whole of the district from tube wells, Aston, Bayford, Letty Green, Welwyn R.D.C., Metropolitan Water Board, also private supplies and shallow wells.	
Sewage Disposal .	Public system for parts of district. At Little Amwell and Aston open tanks, filters, and broad irrigation. At Walkern sedimentation tank and broad irrigation. At Tewin sedimentation tank and sub-irrigation. Open tanks, filters and sprinkler at Little Berkhamstead. In other parts of district cesspools and earth-closets.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	No collection except at Little Amwell. In the rest of the district tins only are collected by the Parish Councils.	
Infectious Diseases .	Cases to East Herts Isolation Hospital; swabs, etc., sent to laboratory at Hill End Hospital; antitoxin kept at Isolation Hospital; steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital; houses disinfected by formaldehyde.	
Housing . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 .	34
	Number of houses in process of erection .	<i>nil</i>
	Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	37

HITCHIN.

Water Supply

- Of the 33 parishes in this rural district, 17 have now a pipe supply, while work is in hand for the provision of such supply in 14 other parishes, water in bulk being taken in some cases from Hirsch Urban District, Letchworth Garden City Co., Stevenage Urban District and Hertford Rural. A water tower has been erected at Weston, while the extension of the Weston mains to Friends Green and Tilekiln is now complete.

The Parish of Shephall and the Broadwater area have now a piped supply which is taken from the Hertford Rural scheme at Aston.

In the Ashwell area the scheme for a piped supply is in progress. The trial borehole at Chipping has proved successful, an abundant yield has been obtained. The erection of necessary water towers and laying of mains is in hand. Extensions from the Ashwell village supply have been made to supply the village of Hinxworth on the one side, and to properties on the Cambridgeshire boundary on the Ashwell Station side.

Work is now complete for a piped supply for the Wymondleys, including duplicate boreholes and power plant with concrete water-tower. This work is additional to the larger County Scheme, by which it is proposed to supply the Parishes of Offley, Lilley, King's Walden, Kimpton, and St. Paul's Walden. There has been some delay in connection with this latter scheme for the west and north-west areas, but it is hoped that some definite progress will be made during the year. Work on one borehole is now in hand.

Sewage Disposal.

- Public systems for more populous parts of the district; nine small disposal works. General method adopted is by settling tanks in duplicate and broad irrigation. The question of making provision for the villages of Ickleford, Breachwood Green, Whitwell, and Knebworth is under consideration. In this connection the Council are anxious to co-operate with the County in order that they may obtain financial assistance under s. 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929. It is inevitable that with the large extension of water supply services now proceeding, the methods of disposal of sewage will require consideration.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service has been completely reorganized; a district collection by the Council's employees in a specially constructed motor vehicle is now in operation. Disposal by partly controlled tipping. There is a regular weekly collection of all household refuse in the parish of Knebworth, while indestructible refuse is collected once every four weeks from all other parishes in the district. In April, 1935, this service was extended to the Ashwell area, where a collection of indestructible refuse is made in each of the eleven added parishes once every four weeks. Three tips are in use in

		the added area, viz. Barkway, Therfield, and Ashwell, making eight tips for the whole area. These are now well maintained.	
Infectious Diseases .		Cases admitted to North Herts Isolation Hospital ; swabs sent to County Public Health Laboratories ; antitoxin kept at Isolation Hospital ; steam disinfectant at Hospital available when necessary. House disinfection carried out with formalin vapour.	
Housing . . .		Number of houses erected during 1936	24
		Number of houses in process of erection	58
		Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	52
ST. ALBANS.			
Water Supply . . .		Public supply for greater portion of district from Harpenden Water Co., St. Albans Water Co., Barnet Water Co., Hatfield Water Co., Colne Valley Water Co., and public wells.	
Sewage Disposal . .		Public system for parts of district ; public and private cesspools ; arrangements can be made for emptying cesspools. Sewage disposal works at Colney Heath, London Colney, and Wheathampstead.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal		Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance except in outlying districts. Disposal by controlled tipping.	
Infectious Diseases .		Cases of infectious disease to St. Albans Hospital ; swabs sent to Clinical Research Association and Hill End laboratory ; antitoxin supplied at Council's expense ; steam disinfectant at St. Albans Hospital ; house disinfection by sanitary staff.	
Housing		Number of houses erected during 1936	<i>nil</i>
		Number of houses in process of erection	<i>nil</i>
		Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	64
WARE.			
Water Supply . . .		Great Amwell has a piped supply from the Met. W.B. ; rest of district served by wells, mostly deep.	
Sewage Disposal . .		Public system for parts of the district ; disposal works at Hunsdon and Stanstead Abbots ; treatment by broad irrigation.	
Refuse Collection and Disposal		Weekly collection in covered mechanical conveyance ; bi-weekly collection of contents of pails ; disposal by tipping.	
Infectious Diseases .		Cases sent to East Herts Isolation Hospital ; swabs to laboratory at Hill End Hospital ; steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital ; house disinfection by formaldehyde.	
Housing		Number of houses erected during 1936	32
		Number of houses in process of erection	12
		Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935	42
WATFORD.			
Water Supply . . .		Public supply for the whole of the district from Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co., Colne Valley Water Co., Watford Borough, and Hemel Hempstead Borough ; few wells in isolated parts.	

Sewage Disposal .	Public system for more populous parts of district ; cesspools and earth-closets. There is a number of sewage disposal works in the district, sewage is also dealt with at works in adjoining districts.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Generally weekly collection ; in a few areas fortnightly. The parishes of Aldenham and Abbots Langley have their own public cleansing services. The vehicles used throughout the district are satisfactory. Disposal by controlled tipping.
Infectious Diseases .	Cases of Infectious disease to Joint Hospital at Watford ; swabs to Clinical Research Association ; antitoxin kept at Council Offices. Steam disinfectant at Isolation Hospital ; house disinfection carried out by Sanitary Inspector.
Housing . . .	Number of houses erected during 1936 . <i>nil</i> Number of houses in process of erection. <i>nil</i> Number of houses overcrowded as defined by Housing Act, 1935 . . . 19 (Abated 6)
WELWYN.	
Water Supply .	Main supply available for practically the whole of the district except Parish of Ayot St. Lawrence and wholly undeveloped portions of other parishes. The supply for the parish of Welwyn is obtained in bulk from Welwyn Garden City Waterworks and is distributed through two water towers and two reservoirs. A small area in the N.W. corner of the parish is supplied with water by Hitchin R.D.C. The parish of Ayot St. Peter and Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital are supplied from Welwyn Waterworks. Private wells supply water in the parish of Ayot St. Lawrence.
Sewage Disposal .	There are public sewers and a disposal works in Welwyn and these serve the area around the older portion of the town including all the housing schemes at Welwyn. There are sewers and a disposal works at Woolmer Green. Other areas in this district are drained mainly to cesspools and septic tanks. Earth closets remain only in the oldest cottages, principally in the parishes of Ayot St. Peter and Ayot St. Lawrence.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	Weekly collection throughout the district. Covered mechanically propelled vehicle is used. Disposal by carefully controlled tipping.
Infectious Diseases .	The Council is one of the contributing Authorities to the North Herts Joint Hospitals Board, and cases of Infectious Diseases are sent to the Board's Isolation Hospital at Letchworth. Swabs are sent to the Hill End Hospital Laboratory : Antitoxins are kept at the Welwyn Hospital. There is no steam disinfectant in Welwyn, but occasionally articles are sent to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection. Houses

are disinfected by spraying with Izal and fumigation with formalin. Izal disinfectant is supplied as necessary.

Housing	.	.	Number of houses erected during 1936	.	<i>nil</i>
			Number of houses in process of erection	.	<i>nil</i>
			Number of houses overcrowded as defined by		
			Housing Act, 1935	.	5

DISPOSAL OF HOUSE-REFUSE : DUMPS.

Careful attention continues to be given to the condition of the refuse dumps in the county. I have had the opportunity recently of inspecting with Mr. Dubbin several of the different grades of dumps in various parts of the county and it has been noted that with few exceptions the general care exercised in carrying out the precautions laid down by the Ministry of Health has been well maintained. In some districts sufficient attention is not paid to the important points of labour required and the amount of covering. The success of controlled tipping depends upon the systematic depositing of refuse in easily worked layers, sufficient labour, and adequate covering. In some of the dumps inspected the improvement which has taken place has been quite striking, large quantities of unsightly refuse in irregular mounds being replaced by regular well covered layers.

There are at the present time 52 refuse dumps in the county classified as follows :—A, 21, B, 26, and C, 5 ; in addition there are four destructors. As regards this classification the A dumps are under systematic control, the B dumps are partly controlled and include a large number of small local dumps in rural districts, C dumps have practically no control and include 4 small local dumps. The following report is submitted by Mr. Dubbin, to whom I am indebted for the above figures :—

“ Attention is still maintained by the Local Authorities in the County to their Refuse Disposal Works.

“ Owing to the constant inspections that are made, it is found that, in practically all cases, the officers concerned with the maintenance of these works readily agree to remedying any defects or to any suggestions with regard to rat destruction, control, etc., that are brought to their notice.

“ There are 52 refuse dumps in the county, and they are graded as follows :—21 graded A, under systematic control ; 26 graded B, partly controlled ; 5 graded C, no control—includes 4 small local dumps, 4 incinerator and salvage plants.

“ The improved tipping arrangements which were made last year in dealing with the refuse from Islington, Finsbury, and

Stoke Newington, and which is deposited on Messrs. Inns' dumps at Cole Green and Wheathampstead, have been maintained.

"In several instances waste sites are now being improved by controlled refuse dumps, and will in time become suitable for playing-fields, agricultural purposes, etc. Where controlled tipping is carried out in its entirety, it is found that rat infestation is practically non-existent."

The precautions suggested by the Ministry of Health are as follows : (1) The deposit to be made in layers ; (2) no layer to exceed 6 feet in depth ; (3) each layer to be covered on all surfaces exposed to the air with at least 9 inches of earth, or other suitable substance, except a portion which may be allowed uncovered during the formation of the layer ; (4) no layer to be left uncovered for more than 72 hours from the time of deposit ; (5) sufficient screens or other suitable apparatus to be provided where necessary to prevent any paper or other debris from being blown by the wind away from the place of deposit.

MILK PRODUCTION: THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1936

Under the above order licences authorizing the production of tuberculin tested milk and accredited milk are granted by the County Council. At the present time there are 49 producers licensed to produce tuberculin tested milk and 224 to produce accredited milk.

Under the above Order the special designations which may be used in relation to milk are "Tuberculin Tested" which replaces Certified and Grade "A" (Tuberculin Tested) milk, "Accredited" which replaces Grade "A" and "Pasteurized". All licences under this Order in the County authorizing the use by producers of the special designations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" shall be granted by the County Council and all other licences under this Order by the Councils of Boroughs and Urban and Rural Districts.

The standard to which graded milks have to conform is laid down in the Order. The procedure adopted in the county is that all samples of milk are examined for bacterial count, coliform bacilli, and by the methylene blue test. In comparing the results obtained it was found that usually during the winter months there was a correlation between a high bacterial count and a positive methylene blue reaction but this was not so obvious during the recent warmer weather.

The results obtained are shown in the following table :—

Examination of Milk Samples to 20th April, 1937

Total	Bacterial Count	Methylene Blue Test		Coliform Test			
		Satisfied	Did not Satisfy	—	+	++	+++
92	Under 5,000	88	4	90	2	—	—
73	5,000–20,000	72	1	71	2	—	—
65	20,000–50,000	57	8	63	2	—	—
40	50,000–100,000	31	9	36	3	—	1
9	100,000–150,000	5	4	8	—	1	—
11	150,000–200,000	3	8	7	2	2	—
34	Over 200,000	3	31	17	2	3	12
324	Totals	259	65	292	13	6	13

Examination of Milk Samples, 21st April to 28th May, 1937

Total	Bacterial Count	Methylene Blue Test		Coliform Test			
		Satisfied	Did not satisfy	—	+	++	+++
40	Under 5,000	39	1	39	1	—	—
29	5,000–20,000	22	7	29	—	—	—
36	20,000–50,000	28	8	34	2	—	—
21	50,000–100,000	5	16	18	1	—	2
11	100,000–150,000	1	10	7	—	2	2
2	150,000–200,000	—	2	2	—	—	—
13	Over 200,000	—	13	9	1	—	3
152	Totals	95	57	138	5	2	7

Reference to the above table points to some interesting results. A high bacterial count of over 100,000 usually means that the sample of milk will not satisfy the methylene blue test especially in warm weather. But the converse does not hold good. Table II shows that of 69 samples with a bacterial count under 20,000, 8 or 11·5 per cent did not satisfy the methylene blue test. Further, if we take the 29 samples with a bacterial count of 5,000 to 20,000 we find that with this relatively low count and a negative coliform test 7 or 24 per cent of these samples did not satisfy the methylene blue test. These samples were examined during the latter part of April and the month of May. It would appear that there is some other factor which influences the methylene blue reaction apart from the number and character of the bacteria present.

During the year 226 samples of milk were examined at the County Laboratory at Hill End for tubercle bacilli and of these 11 were positive. The results were as follows :—bulk samples 30—result, nil positive ; single samples, 67—result, 7 positive ; undefined or presumably suspected samples, 33—result, 4 positive ; samples tested with biological test, 50—result, 9 positive. Of the total number of samples 96 were samples of school milk ; all were negative for tubercle bacilli. It should be noted that of the 226 samples of milk examined approximately 79 or 35 per cent were special samples taken for reasons of suspicion or to confirm the diagnosis of tuberculosis. These figures indicate that increasing effort is being made in the county to seek out and to eliminate the disease.

During the year, 1,080 samples of Grade “ A ” milk were examined, and of this number 951 were up to standard and 129 were below standard. The corresponding numbers last year were 430, 346, and 84.

The following figures indicate the action which has been taken during the year under the “ Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915 ” : Number of animals examined, 45,792 ; number found to be suffering from tuberculosis, 26 ; number of samples examined, 154.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The work under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Inspectors appointed for the purpose, working under the Chief Constable. Analysis of samples taken are made by the County Analyst, Dr. Bernard Dyer, of the Analytical Laboratory, 17 Great Tower Street, London, E.C., to whom I am indebted for the following report regarding the analytical work carried out during the year.

DR. DYER'S REPORT.

“ Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.”

SUMMARY OF SAMPLES ANALYSED FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1936, TO
31ST DECEMBER, 1936.

	<i>Samples Analysed.</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory.</i>
Milk	462	25
Milk, condensed	4	—
Milk, separated	1	—
Milk, skimmed	2	1
Cream	31	—
Cream Cheese Spread	1	—
Cheese	1	—
Butter	33	—
Margarine	2	—

	<i>Samples Analysed.</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory.</i>
Lard	22	—
Dripping	1	—
Suet with rice flour	2	—
Bloater Paste	1	—
Chicken and Ham Paste	1	—
Lobster Paste	1	—
Meat Faggott	1	—
Pork Pie	1	—
Pressed Tongue	1	—
Salmon and Anchovy Paste	1	—
Sausages	11	3
Sausages, Preserved	4	—
Steak and Kidney Pie	1	—
Turkey and Tongue	1	—
Turkey and Tongue Roll	1	—
Beans with Tomato Sauce	1	—
Tinned Peas	5	—
Welsh Rarebit	1	—
Bread	2	—
Cake	2	—
Chocolate Covered Sponge	1	1
Chocolate Marshmallow	1	—
Swiss Roll	1	—
Chocolate Powder	1	—
Coffee	6	—
Coffee and Chicory	1	—
Coffee Essence with Chicory	1	—
Liquid Coffee with Chicory	1	—
Cocoa	3	—
Lemonade Crystals	1	—
Lemonade Powder	1	—
Lemon Squash	1	—
Lemon Barley Water	1	—
Sherbet	1	—
Honey	1	—
Jam	13	—
Lime Marmalade	1	—
Jelly	2	—
Almonds, Ground	10	1
Arrowroot	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Bun Flour	1	—
Cornflour	2	—
Rice (whole and ground)	5	—
Sago	3	1
Self-raising Flour	5	—
Ginger, Ground	1	—
Mint Sauce	1	—
Mustard Mixture	1	—
Onion Salt	1	—
Pepper	10	—
Sugar	1	—
Fruit Salad	1	—
Mincemeat	3	—
Raisins	5	—
Sultanas	8	—
Piccalilli Pickle	1	—
Pickles	1	—

	<i>Samples Analysed.</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory.</i>
Sauce	3	—
Sauce, Tomato	1	—
Spice, Pickling	1	—
Tomato Ketchup	1	—
Olive Oil	3	1
Vinegar	13	—
Ginger Wine (non-alcoholic)	3	—
Raisin Wine	1	—
Beer	2	—
Gin	1	—
Rum	3	—
Whisky	3	—
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	1	—
Boracic Crystals	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Citrate of Magnesia	1	—
Friars Balsam	1	—
Liquid Paraffin	1	—
Tincture of Iodine	1	—
"Appeal to Cow" milk samples	17	—
Total	<u>757</u>	<u>33</u>

Milk.—Of the 26 samples of unsatisfactory milk taken from vendors 4 contained added water in the respective proportions of $1\frac{1}{2}$, 7, 11, and 22 per cent, the last named being a sample sold as "skimmed milk" which consisted of whole milk heavily watered.

The other 22 samples were unsatisfactory by reason of deficiency in fat in proportions varying from 8 per cent to 25 per cent of the minimum normal quantity of fat as indicated in the Sale of Milk Regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture.

It will be seen at the end of the above table that 17 other milk samples were taken direct from cows in connection with purchased samples found to be unsatisfactory. Of these samples, as taken from the cow, 7 were found to err on the side of shortage of fat as compared with the 3 per cent of fat indicated in the Sale of Milk Regulations. Four of these samples also showed deficiencies in non-fatty solids ranging from 0.39 to 0.15 per cent as compared with the figure of 8.5 per cent laid down in the Regulations of the Ministry as presumptive indication of the presence of added water, except where the contrary is capable of proof. It is interesting to record that in all of these cases the freezing point of the milk was the freezing point of genuine milk affording sufficient evidence to free these samples from any suspicion of the presence of added water even in the absence of any knowledge as to their origin.

Sausages.—The three samples of sausages indicated as

unsatisfactory contravened the provision of the regulations relating to preservatives inasmuch as that they were preserved with sulphur dioxide without notice of preservation being given to the purchaser, although the quantity of sulphur dioxide found was not more than would have been allowable had they been sold as "preserved".

Chocolate-covered Sponge.—The sample of so-called "Chocolate-covered Sponge" contained no chocolate. It was coated with sugar icing coloured brown to resemble chocolate but destitute of cocoa.

Ground Almonds.—A sample of ground almonds was found to consist of ground arachis kernels—that is to say, the kernels of the nuts known as "groundnuts", or more familiarly known, perhaps, as "pea nuts".

Olive Oil.—The unsatisfactory sample of oil was sold as "Olive Oil" but was found to consist of arachis or ground-nut oil which is sometimes used as an adulteration or substitute. This sample was purchased informally, but a subsequent sample purchased formally from the same source was found to be genuine olive oil.

Sago.—The sample of "sago" found to be unsatisfactory really consisted of tapioca. Pearl Sago and Pearl Tapioca are in appearance indistinguishable from one another and the two articles seem to be very frequently confused in commerce. In view of a decision given on the subject in the High Court a number of years ago a lenient view is usually taken of this confusion when it arises. The starches from which sago and tapioca respectively are prepared are of different botanical origin, but both articles are of equal nutritive value, and the market prices of the two are usually about the same.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

The health of the County during 1936 has been good and the statistics are better than those of last year in some respects though in other respects not so good.

The estimated population of the County is given as 460,150 compared with 441,700 for 1935, representing an increase of 18,450 compared with 12,350 last year.

There is an increase in the birth-rate, which was 14.4 compared with 13.9 last year. The actual number of births was 6,665 compared with 6,164 in the previous year.

There is a slight rise in the death-rate which was 10.0 compared with 9.8 in 1935, the causes of this increase are discussed in the body of the report.

There is a slight rise in the infant mortality, which was 37 compared with 35 last year. The figure 35 was the lowest infant mortality which had so far been reached in the County, the previous two lowest figures being 37 in 1934 and 42 in 1933.

It is satisfactory to be able to report a further distinct fall in the maternal mortality which was 2.1 compared with 2.4 last year; this is the lowest figure which has so far been reached in the County and compares favourably with 3.8 for England and Wales. With reference to maternal mortality it should be stated that there were only three deaths during the year from puerperal sepsis and this is attributed to modern methods of treatment and to the excellent treatment which such cases receive at Queen Charlotte's and Wellhouse hospitals to which a number of cases were sent.

A further point of special interest is that in 2,263 maternity cases attended in their own homes by midwives there was only one maternal death, with a maternal mortality of 0.4.

There is a further decrease in the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis, namely 0.42 compared with 0.45. This is the lowest death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis which has so far been reached in the County, the previous lowest being 0.45 last year. There was also a slight decrease in the death-rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The death-rate from cancer and other forms of malignant disease was 1.4, the same as last year.

The number of patients from the County attending the Venereal Disease Clinics in London during the year has been 332 compared with 341 for 1935.

The death-rate from epidemic disease is also lower, namely 0.10 compared with 0.14 last year.

There was an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia, bronchitis, heart disease, diabetes, and congenital debility and premature birth, but a decrease in the number of deaths from whooping cough, influenza, and diphtheria.

The number of deaths from violence (including accidents and suicide) was 243 compared with 238 last year.

In conclusion I desire once more to express my thanks on behalf of the County Council to the ladies who act as voluntary workers at both the County Council and the Voluntary Maternity and Child Welfare Centres for the valuable assistance they give and to the time they devote to this important work. I should also like to take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the untiring devotion to duty shown by the nurses in the County and my thanks to them for their valued help in connection with the Public Health service in the County.

